

Frontispiece.



*King John signing Magna Charta,
that Bulwark of English Liberty.*

12835. aa. 68. A 7504 aa. 15

NEW HISTORY
OF
ENGLAND:

FROM THE
EARLIEST PERIOD to the PRESENT TIME;

On a PLAN recommended by

The EARL of CHESTERFIELD.

Embellished with COPPER PLATES, elegantly
engraved from the Designs of Mr. WALE.

By the Reverend Mr. COOPER.

*By the Help of History, a young Man may, in some
Measure, acquire the Experience of Old Age.*

CHESTERFIELD.

A NEW EDITION.

L O N D O N :

Printed for E. Newbery, the Corner of St. Paul's
Church-yard. 1785.



P R E F A C E.

HISTORY, of all other studies, is the most necessary for a man who is to live in the world. It presents us with a review of all those mighty events which have influenced the fate of nations; and communicates to our inquiry the whole progress of improvement, the whole circle of knowledge and experience. In the delightful study of history, we become acquainted with the characters, and even the persons of those heroes, who have triumphed over barbarity; of those legislators, who have strengthened the bands of society; and of those philosophers, who have instructed, polished, and reformed mankind.

In reading the transactions of others, we are apprized of our own duty; and the more we are informed of what is past, we shall be the better enabled to conduct ourselves for the future.

“ The testimonies of ancient history,” says Lord Chesterfield, “ are weaker than those of modern, “ as all testimony grows weaker and “ weaker, as it is more and more remote from us ; but modern history, particularly that of the three “ last centuries, should be applied to “ with the greatest attention and exactness ; there the probability of “ coming to the truth is much “ greater, the testimonies being “ more recent.”

Such is the opinion of the earl of Chesterfield on the subject of history ; and, fully convinced of the justness and propriety of his observations, I have followed his plan, as far as was consistent with the nature of this performance. I have, in the early periods of English history, been as concise as possible ; but, in the modern part, I have been as copious and extensive as the limits which I have prescribed myself would allow.

INTRODUCTION.

THE ancient state of England, with respect to its constitution, was originally a monarchy, under the primitive Britons; afterwards a province in subjection to the Romans; then an heptarchical government under the Saxons; then a kingdom subordinate to the Danes; next after them, under the power and dominion of the Normans; but at present a monarchy again.

The whole island was at first called *Albion*, *Alpion*, because the term *Alp* signifies a hill. It was likewise called *Olbion*, a Greek word for happy, because the ancient Britons lived for a long time in ease and affluence, in the quiet possession of their hills, till the wild ambition of Cæsar interrupted their flourishing state of peace and tranquility.

It was afterwards named *Brittania*, from *Britb*, signifying painted in the Bri-

vi INTRODUCTION.

tish language, and the Greek term *Tania*, or country, which the Romans softened into *Britannia*.

Britain was but very little known to the rest of the world before the time of the Romans. The coast opposite Gaul were frequented by merchants who traded thither for such commodities as the natives were able to produce. These, it is thought, after a time, took possession of all the maritime places where they had at first been permitted to reside. There, finding the country fertile, and commodiously situated for trade, they settled upon the sea-side, and introduced the practice of agriculture. But it was very different with the inland inhabitants of the country, who considered themselves as the lawful possessors of the soil. These avoided all correspondence with the new comers, whom they deemed intruders upon their property.

The inland inhabitants are represented as extremely numerous, living in cottages thatched with straw, and feeding large herds of cattle. They subsisted chiefly upon milk, and flesh procured by the chase. What cloaths they wore to cover any part of their bodies, were usually the skins of beasts; but much of their
bodies

INTRODUCTION. vii

bodies, as the arms, legs, and thighs, was left naked, and those parts were painted blue. Their hair, which was generally yellow, flowed down upon their backs and shoulders. They constantly shaved their faces, except their upper lip, where they suffered the hair to grow to an enormous length. The dress of savage nations is every where almost the same, being calculated rather to inspire terror than to excite love or respect.

As to their government, it consisted of several small principalities, each under its respective leader. And this seems to be the earliest mode of dominion with which mankind are acquainted, and deduced from the natural privileges of paternal authority. Upon great or uncommon dangers, a commander in chief was chosen by consent, in a general assembly; and to him was committed the conduct of the general interest, the power of making peace, or leading to war.

Their forces consisted chiefly of foot; and yet they could bring a considerable number of horse into the field upon extraordinary occasions. They likewise used chariots in battle, which, with short scythes fastened to the ends of the axletrees, inflicted terrible wounds, spreading
terror

viii INTRODUCTION.

terror and devastation wheresoever they drove. Nor, while the chariots were thus destroying, were the warriors who conducted them unemployed. These darted their javelins against the enemy, ran along the beam, leapt on the ground, resumed their seat, stopt, or turned their horses at full speed, and sometimes cunningly retreated, to draw the enemy into confusion.

The religion of the Britons was one of the most considerable part of their government; and the Druids, who were the guardians of it, possessed great authority among them. No species of superstition was ever more terrible than theirs; besides the severe penalties which they were permitted to inflict in this world, they inculcated the doctrine of transmigration of souls, and thus extended their authority as far as the fears of their votaries. They sacrificed human victims, which they burned in large wicker idols, made so capacious as to contain a multitude of persons at once, who were thus consumed together. To these rites, tending to impress ignorance with awe, they added the austerity of their manners, and the simplicity of their lives. They lived in woods, caves, and hollow trees; their food was acorns and berries,

INTRODUCTION. ix

berries, and their drink water. By these arts they were not only respected, but almost adored, by the people.

It may be easily supposed, that the manners of the inhabitants took a tincture from the discipline of their teachers. Their lives were simple, but they were marked with cruelty and ferocity; their courage was great, but neither dignified by mercy nor perseverance.

The Britons had long remained in this rude, but independent state, when Cæsar, having over-run Gaul with his victories, and willing still farther to extend his fame, determined upon the conquest of a country that seemed to promise an easy triumph. When the troops destined for the expedition were embarked, he set sail for Britain about midnight, and the next morning arrived on the coast near Dover, where he saw the rocks and cliffs covered with armed men to oppose his landing.

The Britons had chosen Cassivelaunus for their commander in chief; but the petty princes under his command, either desiring his station, or suspecting his fidelity, threw off their allegiance. Some of them fled, with their forces, into the internal parts of
the

* INTRODUCTION.

the kingdom, others submitted to Cæsar; till at length Cassivelaunus himself, weakened by so many desertions, resolved upon making what terms he was able, while he yet had power to keep the field. The conditions offered by Cæsar, and accepted by him, were, that he should send to the continent double the number of hostages at first demanded, and that he should acknowledge subjection to the Romans. Cæsar, however, was obliged to return once more to compel the Britons to complete their stipulated treaty.

After the Romans had been in possession of this island for near four hundred years, they left it to its ancient inhabitants again; but as they were at that time most shamefully degenerated from their native courage and intrepidity, they were soon after invaded by the Scots and Picts; and being greatly intimidated at the thoughts of their approach, they applied to the Saxons (through the plausible insinuations of their unambitious monarch Vortigern) for their assistance, and thereby brought on their total ruin and destruction, and the division of their country into the following heptarchy, viz. the kingdom
of

INTRODUCTION. xi

of Kent ; the kingdom of the South Saxons ; the kingdom of the West Saxons ; the kingdom of the East Saxons ; the kingdom of Northumberland ; the kingdom of the East Angles ; and the kingdom of the Mercians.

In process of time, Britannia assumed the name of *Angle-land*, or *England*. The 1st king thereof was Egbert the Great ; the 2d, Ethelwolf, his only surviving son ; the 3d, Ethelbald ; the 4th, Ethelbert ; the 5th, Ethelred I. the 6th, Alfred the Great ; the 7th, Edward the Elder ; the 8th, Athelstan ; the 9th, Edmund I. the 10th, Edred ; the 11th, Edwy, or Edwin ; the 12th, Edgar the Pacific ; the 13th, Edward II. the 14th, Ethelred II. the 15th, Edmund, surnamed Ironside ; the 16th, Canute the Great ; the 17th, Harold I. surnamed Harefoot ; the 18th, Hardicanute ; the 19th, Edward, surnamed the Confessor ; and the 20th, Harold, the second son of Godwin, earl of Kent. His pretensions were, however, opposed by William duke of Normandy, who insisted that the crown belonged of right to him, it being bequeathed to him by Edward the Confessor. In the year 1066, he made a descent on the coast
of

xii INTRODUCTION.

of Suffex, with a numerous army ; and soon after came to an engagement with Harold at Hastings, who was killed upon the spot, and his army entirely defeated ; as will be more particularly related in the account of the reign of William the Conqueror.

THE

T H E
NEW HISTORY
O F
E N G L A N D.

WILLIAM I. Surnamed THE CON-
QUEROR.

WILLIAM I. king of England, and duke of Normandy, was one of the greatest generals of the eleventh century. He was born at Falaise, and was the natural son of Robert duke of Normandy, by Arlotte, a furrier's daughter. After the death of Robert, which happened in 1035, William, who was his only son, succeeded him. His relations, however, disputed the succession, but being favoured by Henry I. king of France, he triumphed over them, defeated count d'Arques, took Maine, and carried the war into Anjou. Some time after, he

B paid

paid a visit to Edward the Confessor, who treated him with great respect, and took a tour with him through England.

Edward the Confessor dying without issue in 1065, appointed him his heir : on which William sent to demand the crown ; and soon after landed at Pevensey in Suffex, with a powerful army, and thence proceeding to Hastings, built a strong fort. Harold had placed himself on the throne, and now marched to oppose him ; on which a bloody battle ensued, the 14th of October, 1066, in which William obtained a complete victory, though he had three horses killed under him, and lost a great number of his troops.

On the side of the English Harold was slain, with many of the nobility, and about 60,000 soldiers. The Normans had, besides, the advantage of long bows, of the use of which the English were then ignorant ; but, in spite of these, the English, with their battle axes, kept so close together, that they remained invincible, till the Normans, pretending to fly, brought them into disorder. Notwithstanding this victory, William could have little hopes of gaining the throne by right of conquest ; he therefore gave out, that he
came

came to revenge the death of prince Alfred, brother to king Edward; to restore Robert, archbishop of Canterbury, to his see; and to obtain the crown as his right, on account of its being bequeathed to him by Edward the Confessor. He cannot, therefore, be properly said to have obtained the crown by conquest, since these motives engaged many of the English in his favour.

William's passions were violent, but he had much wisdom, and an equal share of dissimulation. He marched directly to London; but on the way was met by a large body of Kentish men, each with a bough, or branch of a tree in his hand. This army was headed by Stigand, the archbishop, who made a speech to the Conqueror, in which he boldly demanded the preservation of their liberties; and let him know, that they were resolved rather to die than to part with their laws, and live in bondage.

William thought proper to grant their demands; he agreed to govern them by the laws of Edward the Confessor, and to suffer them to retain their ancient customs. Upon his coronation at Westminster, he was sworn to govern by the laws of the realm; and though he afterwards intro-

duced some new forms, he preserved trials by juries, and the borough law.

The first act of sovereignty he exercised, after his coronation, was the seizure of Harold's treasure, which he found amassed at Winchester. Part of this he distributed among the principal officers of his army; part was given to the churches and monasteries; and a large share sent to the pope.

He began his reign with such moderation as afforded a happy omen to his subjects. He exhorted his principal officers to treat the English with humanity, and respect them as brothers. He issued orders throughout his army, forbidding his soldiers to attempt the chastity of the women, or commit the least outrage against the inhabitants, under the severest penalties. This specimen of his equity had a wonderful effect upon the English, who vied with each other in testifying their loyalty and esteem, by presenting him with large sums of money, which helped him to defray the expence of the conquest; nor could they blame his conduct, when he divided among his followers the lands of all the noblemen who had appeared in arms against him, as well those that fell, as those that survived the battle.

He

He instituted the courts of Chancery and Exchequer; but at the same time disarmed his English subjects, and forbade their having any light in their houses after 8 o'clock at night, when a bell was rung, called *Curfew*, or *Coverfire*, at the sound of which all were obliged to put out their fires and candles. He conquered several powers who invaded England, obliged the Scots to preserve the peace they had broken, compelled the Welch to pay him tribute, refused to pay homage to the pope, built the tower of London, and caused all public acts to be made in the Norman tongue. He oppressed the people by taxes, and caused all England to be surveyed and rated, and had the men numbered, in a work called Doomsday-book, which is still extant.

He resolved to chastise the French, who invaded Normandy, and after that to reduce his son Robert; but Robert no sooner found that he was engaged with his father than he dutifully submitted to him, notwithstanding his being victorious. Some time after, William declared war against Phillip I. king of France, laid waste the country, burnt Mantes, and ravaged it with sword and fire to the gates of Paris; but approaching too near the flames of

Mantes, the heat of the fire, together with the warmth of the season, threw him into a fever, which being increased by a fall from his horse in his return to Roan, he died in a village near that city, the 9th of September, 1087, in the 64th year of his age, after a reign of fifty-two years in Normandy, and twenty-one in England. He was interred at Caen in Normandy.

William was a prince of great courage, capacity, and ambition; he was politic, cruel, vindictive, and rapacious; stern and haughty in his deportment; reserved and jealous in his disposition. He was fond of glory, and though parsimonious in domestic affairs, delighted in pomp and ostentation. His aspect was nobly severe and imperious, his stature tall and portly, his constitution robust, and his strength so great, that hardly a man of that age could bend his bow, or handle his arms.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1068. The English were required to put out their fire and candle at eight in the evening, on the ringing of the curfew bell; and also to deliver up their arms.

1072. Surnames were first used in England;

WILLIAM I. 19

land ; and common swearing first introduced.

1076. A great earthquake in England, and a frost from the beginning of November to the April following.

1079. The courts of Exchequer and Chancery, the four terms of law, sheriffs, and justices of the peace, ordained. Sealing of writs was also introduced in this reign.

WILLIAM II.

WILLIAM II. surnamed *Rufus*, or *Red*, from the colour of his hair, and his florid complexion, was the second surviving son of William the Conqueror, and succeeded his father the 27th of September, 1087. He was then thirty years of age ; and at the same time Robert, his elder brother, succeeded, by his father's will, to the duchy of Normandy ; but he resolved to assert his right of primogeniture to the crown of England ; and several of the Norman nobility espoused his cause. William, however, defeated a body of his troops in Kent, and soon after prevailed on him to conclude a peace.

The

The two brothers then made war on Henry, their youngest brother, whom they besieged in Mount St. Michael, where the king riding one morning unattended, fell in with a party of Henry's soldiers, and endeavoured to force his way through them ; but was dismounted, and a soldier was going to dispatch him, when he saved his life by crying out, " Hold, fellow, I am the king of England." Upon this the man, dropping his sword, raised the monarch from the ground, and received from him the honour of knighthood, and other favours.

The brothers being soon reconciled, William turned his arms against Scotland, and defeated the army of king Malcolm, who, with his son, were killed just before in an ambush laid by Mowbray, governor of Northumberland. But soon after, Mowbray finding that the king neglected to reward his services, joined with other noblemen to set the crown on the head of Stephen, grandson to William the Conqueror. Upon which the king marched into Yorkshire, reduced Bamborough, took Mowbray prisoner, and put an end to the rebellion. But at length, William hunting in the New Forest, was killed by an arrow, shot by Walter Tyrrel, his particular





Death of William Rufus.

ticular favourite, who, aiming at a deer, shot the king in the breast, on which he immediately expired, on the 2d of August, 1100, aged 41, after a reign of thirteen years. It is said, so little respect was paid to his body, that it was conveyed in a coal-cart to Winchester, and was soon after interred, in a very private manner, in St. Swithin's church there.

William was equally void of learning, principle, and humanity; haughty, passionate, brutal, profligate, and ungrateful, a scoffer at religion, a scourge to the clergy, vain-glorious, talkative, rapacious, lavish and dissolute, and an inveterate enemy to the English, though he owed his crown to their valour and fidelity, when the Norman lords intended to expel him from the throne. He lived in a scandalous commerce with prostitutes, professing his contempt for marriage. Having no legitimate issue, the crown devolved to his brother Henry.

William at the time of his death, had the archbishoprics of Canterbury, the bishoprics of Winchester and Salisbury, and twelve abbeys in his hands; and in his reign disposed of the bishoprics and monasteries to those that bid most for them.

Remark-

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1088. A great scarcity this year, and the corn not ripe till the end of November.

1091. Oct. 18. Five hundred houses in London were blown down by a tempest.

1092. A terrible fire in London, which consumed a great part of it.

1096. The first decision by single combat.

1097. Westminster-hall built by William Rufus, 270 feet long, and 74 broad.

1100. An inundation of the sea happened, which overflowed the lands of Godwin earl of Kent, to this day called *Godwin Sands*.

HENRY I. Surnamed BEAUCLERC.

HENRY I. surnamed *Beauclerc*, on account of his great learning, was the son of William the Conqueror, and the youngest brother of William Rufus and Robert. His engaging person and address, his courage, learning, and eloquence, have been highly celebrated. Robert being in Palestine when William Rufus was killed, in 1100, Henry took advantage

vantage of his absence, and caused himself to be crowned king of England, on August 5, 1100; but Robert, at his return, was acknowledged duke of Normandy, and landed at Portsmouth to make good his right to the crown of England. However, Henry came to an agreement with him, by consenting to pay him an annual tribute of 3000 marks.

This tribute, however, being but ill paid, they rekindled the war a short time after; when Henry landed in Normandy, rendered himself master of that duchy, after the battle of Tinchebray, fought on the 27th of September, 1106, in which Robert was defeated, and taken prisoner. After which, Henry had the cruelty to cause his eyes to be put out, and confined him twenty years in Cardiffe castle, in Glamorganshire. He died the 1st of December, 1135, aged 68, leaving his crown to Maud or Matilda, his daughter, but was succeeded by Stephen, his nephew.

Henry was of a middle stature, and robust make, with dark brown hair, and blue serene eyes. He was facetious, fluent, and affable to his favourites. He had naturally a good capacity, which was so much improved and cultivated, that he acquired the surname of *Beauchere* by his learning

learning. He had great courage and fortitude, but was vindictive, cruel, rigid, and implacable. He was temperate in his diet, but a voluptuary in his amours, which produced a numerous family of illegitimate children. His Norman descent inspired him with a contempt for the English, whom he oppressed by extravagant exactions, which not only enabled him to maintain expensive wars upon the continent, but he died the richest prince in Europe.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1100. August 5, Henry I. restored to the English the liberty of using fire and candle by night.

1112. There was a plague in England.

1114. The Thames was dry for three days.

1122. The Order of Knights Templars was founded.

1132. A great part of London was destroyed by fire.

1134. A total eclipse, and an earthquake.

S T E P H E N.

STEPHEN, surnamed *Blois*, was the son of Stephen earl of Blois, by Adela, daughter of William the Conqueror, and succeeded his uncle, Henry I. the 22d of December, 1135, in the 31st year of his age, though the empress Maud, the daughter of Henry I. was then living. He endeavoured to strengthen himself against her, by taking a foreign army into pay, and by signing a charter, in which he acknowledged his being elected king by the clergy and people. He also confirmed the rights of the church, abolished the forest laws, and revived the favourite laws of Edward the Confessor: but not being able to reward the nobles according to their expectations, a war was soon raised against him; the Welch made an irruption in the West, while David king of Scotland ravaged the northern counties; but having concluded a disadvantageous peace with them, he fell ill of a lethargy, when the Normans, imagining that he was dead, invited Theobald, his elder brother, to seize that duchy; however, Stephen recovering, went over into Normandy, expelled

C

pelled his brother, and then returned to England, where the friends of Maud were ready to declare in her favour, assisted by the king of Scotland: but after the Scots had ravaged Northumberland, and the barons had fortified themselves in the southern countries, Stephen reduced the castles of the latter, invaded Scotland, and compelled king David to conclude another peace with him.

He now wore the crown with great tranquillity for some time; but being jealous of the power of the clergy, he seized the castles belonging to the bishops of Salisbury, Lincoln, and Ely; upon which the bishop of Winchester, legate of England, and the king's own brother, became his most inveterate enemy. The clergy, who wanted not only castles, but garrisons, now made their ambition the cause of the people; and the empress Maud took this opportunity of personally asserting her right to the throne.

The bowels of England were now torn by all the rage of civil war, while the people were plundered by both parties. The king faced the storm with a noble fortitude; he besieged the empress in Wallingford, pursued her to Lincoln, and gave battle to the earl of Gloucester before that city,

city, when, after a great effusion of blood, the earl was victorious; and the king having broke his battle-ax and sword in pieces by the force of his blows, was knocked down on his knees with a stone before he could be taken; after which he was confined in Bristol castle, and ignominiously loaded with irons.

While Stephen was in prison, his brother, the legate, excommunicated his adherents; the duke of Anjou seized upon Normandy, and Maud was every where acknowledged queen; but she behaving with great haughtiness, and refusing to mitigate the severity of the Norman laws, a revolt ensued, and Maud was obliged to quit London. The legate, whom she had disobliged, now turning sides again, excommunicated her party, and Stephen, being set at liberty, was every where successful, till the empress and her son Henry were obliged to retire to Normandy.

The young prince soon after landed an army in England, in order to obtain the crown, but in 1153 Stephen concluded a peace with him; and, upon condition of enjoying the crown during his life, consented that Henry should succeed to it at his death. Stephen died the 25th of Octo-

ber, 1154, in the 50th year of his age, and the 19th of his reign.

Stephen was a prince of great courage, fortitude, and activity, and would have been beloved by his people, had he not been harrassed by the efforts of a powerful competitor, which obliged him to take such measures for his safety as were inconsistent with the dictates of honour. His necessities compelled him to infringe the charter of privileges he granted at his accession. His vices, as a king, seem to have been the effect of the troubles in which he was involved ; for, as a man, he was brave, open, and liberal ; and, during the short calm that succeeded the tempests of his reign, he travelled through the kingdom, published an edict to restrain all rapine and violence, and disbanded the foreign mercenaries, who had preyed so long upon his people.

Remarkable Events of this Reign.

1136. There was a great fire in London, which destroyed a great part of the city, from Aldgate to St. Paul's church : London bridge, which was of timber, was also burnt.

In

H E N R Y I I. 29

In this reign the canon law was first introduced into this nation, and appeals first made to the pope.

Stephen giving leave to the nobility and great men to build castles, there were no less than 1117 built in this reign.

H E N R Y I I.

HENRY II. the son of Geoffrey Plantagenet, and the empress Maud, or Matilda, the daughter of Henry I. succeeded Stephen, the 20th of December, 1154, in the 23d year of his age. As the son of Geoffrey Plantagenet, he inherited the French provinces of Anjou, Touraine, and Maine, and afterwards, by his marriage with Eleanor, obtained Poitou, Saintonge, Guienne, and Gascony. In his person the Norman and Saxon blood were united, and in him began the race of the Plantagenets, which ended with Richard III.

In 1172, Henry sailed with a numerous fleet to Ireland, and landed at Waterford, all the Irish princes voluntarily swore allegiance to him, so that he became master of that kingdom without bloodshed, and divided great part of the country

among the English nobles, &c. who attended him in this expedition; and from them sprung some of the principal families now in Ireland. The king had for some years before met with continual disturbance, from the arrogance of Thomas Becket, whom he had raised from a mean station to the see of Canterbury; but at last four knights, thinking to please his majesty, murdered that insolent prelate. What is more extraordinary, the pope's legate prevailed of the king to do penance, by going barefoot to Becket's shrine, and to be scourged there by the Augustine monks, who gave him eighty lashes on his naked back.

Henry was brave, learned, prudent, polite, generous, and of a mild disposition; but these virtues could not exempt him from suffering the greatest vexations, even in his own family. Lust was his predominant passion; and Eleanor his queen, being jealous of Rosamond, the lord Clifford's daughter, who was his mistress, and whom he kept at Woodstock, in a labyrinth, built to secure her from the queen's rage, is said to have found means to dispatch her by poison; and the young princes, his sons, being joined by several of the nobility,

nobility, and assisted by the kings of France and Scotland, raised a great rebellion.

King Henry, however, took the king of Scotland prisoner, and afterwards not only restored the young princes to favour, but pardoned all the revolvers; however, he obliged the king of Scotland to pay him homage for his kingdom. Henry was so mortified at the disobedience of his sons, that through grief he became ill at Chinon in Touraine; and perceiving his end draw near, gave orders for his being carried into the church, where he expired before the altar, on the 6th of July, 1189, in the 57th year of his age, and the 35th of his reign. After which he was stripped by his ungrateful attendants, and left naked in the church; but was afterwards interred at Fontevraud in Anjou.

Henry displayed all the abilities of a politician, all the sagacity of a legislator, and all the magnanimity of a hero. He was revered above all the princes of his time, and his death was deeply lamented by his subjects, whose happiness seems to have been the chief aim of all his endeavours. He enacted wholesome laws. He was generous even to admiration with regard to offences committed against himself,
but

but he never forgave the injuries that were offered to his people.

He was of the middle stature, and the most exact proportion ; his countenance was fair and ruddy ; his blue eyes were mild and engaging, except in a transport of passion, when they sparkled like lightning, to the terror of the beholders. He was broad chested, strong, and muscular. He was eloquent, agreeable and facetious ; remarkably courteous and polite ; compassionate to all in distress ; and so charitable, that he constantly allotted one tenth of his household provisions to the poor.

He cultivated his talents, which were naturally good, and was a generous benefactor to learned men. Henry was not, however, exempted from human frailties ; he was prone to anger, transported with the lust of power, and, in particular, accused of incontinence, not only in the affair of Rosamond, but also in a supposed commerce with the French princess Adelaïs, who was bred in England, as the future wife of his son Richard. This breach of honour and hospitality is, if true, the foulest stain upon his character ; though the fact is doubtful, and we hope the accusation is false.

Remarkable

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1162. A sect called Publicans, rejecting baptism, the eucharist, and marriage, came into England out of Germany this year : the bishops pronounced them heretics, and they were burnt in the forehead and whipped.

1172. December 30, Becket was murdered in the cathedral at Canterbury, by four knights.

1176. The kingdom was first divided into six circuits, and three judges appointed for each circuit.

1177. The French king came in pilgrimage to visit Thomas Becket's tomb.

1185. An earthquake overthrew the church of Lincoln, and other churches ; and at the same time there was almost a total eclipse of the sun.

RICHARD I.

RICHARD I. surnamed *Cœur de Lion*, or *Lion's Heart*, succeeded his father, Henry II. the 6th of July, 1189, at which time he was count of Poitou, and duke of Normandy. He commenced his reign by selling the crown lands, and exacting

acting money on various pretences, in order to go to the holy war. He undertook this expedition in 1190, when he embarked with his whole army for France, where he joined the forces of the French king ; and they having ratified their alliances, marched together, with their combined forces, which consisted of 100,000 men, as far as Lyons, where they separated, and Richard continuing his march to Marseilles, reembarked there for Sicily, where the two kings spent the winter ; and the next spring, continuing their voyage, Richard with his fleet was driven on shore in the island of Cyprus, where Isaac, the king of the island, treating the English with inhumanity, Richard took him and his daughters prisoners, loaded the Cyprian monarch with silver chains ; and having thus conquered the isle of Cyprus, exchanged it with Guy Lusignan for the titular kingdom of Jerusalem.

Richard afterwards gained a complete victory over Saladin, took the city of Acre, and made himself master of Ascalon, Joppa, and Cæsarea ; but being deserted by Philip Augustus, king of France, and the dukes of Burgundy and Austria, he could not continue his conquests ; therefore, on hearing that his brother John was
aspiring

aspiring to the throne of England, he concluded a truce of three years with Saladin, and embarked in order to return to his dominions : but having the misfortune to be shipwrecked near Aquileia, he resolved to pursue his journey in disguise through Germany. After several difficulties, he was taken, when he was asleep, in a mean lodging near Vienna, by order of Leopold, duke of Austria, whom he had disobliged at the siege of Acre ; and that duke delivered him up, the following year, to the emperor Henry VI. who, after treating him with great indignities, obliged him to pay 150,000 marks for his ransom, which his loyal subjects chearfully raised by a voluntary tax.

He then returned to England, after an absence of four years, of which he had passed fifteen months in prison. He soon suppressed the party raised by his brother John, confiscated his lands, and then raising a numerous army, invaded France, and afterwards, at the battle of Blois, took all the archives of the kingdom, and continued the war against Philip, with various success, for five years, after which a truce was concluded. But a gentleman of Limosin having discovered a treasure upon his estate, Richard laid claim to it, as sovereign

vereign of Guienne ; and besieging the gentleman in the castle of Chaluz, was wounded by an arrow in the shoulder, of which he died eleven days after, on the 6th of April, 1199.

Richard had a tall, graceful, fair, and well-proportioned person. His eyes were blue and sparkling, and his hair of a bright yellow, inclining to red.

He had prodigious strength of body, amazing courage and intrepidity ; his penetration was uncommon ; he possessed a fund of manly eloquence ; and he was admired for his talent at repartee. He was an illustrious warrior, but exceedingly ambitious, proud, choleric, cruel, vindictive, debauched and avaricious ; and his love of glory made him neglect the happiness of his people. The reverend Mr. Granger observes, that the saint-errantry of Richard, who sacrificed all other views for the glory of the crusade, is an instance, among a thousand others, that offensive and enterprising valour may be a worse quality than cowardice itself ; and that he was but eight months in his kingdom during a reign of ten years. He has been aptly compared to a lion, a species of animals which he resembled, not only in his courage, but likewise in his ferocity.

In

In this time the city of London began to assume a new form with respect to its government ; to have a mayor, and to be divided into several corporations or societies, now termed companies.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1191. The sun was totally eclipsed.

1192. Grain was so scarce, that wheat was sold for twenty shillings per quarter, which was equal to six pounds of the present money.

1197. At this time lived Robin Hood and Little John ; the former was betrayed at a nunnery at Berkley : being sick, he desired to be blooded, and was bled to death.

1197. There was a great famine throughout England, attended with a mortality.

Richard was the first king of England that bore in his shield three lions passant.

J O H N.

JOHN, surnamed *Sans-terre*, or *Lackland*, was the fourth son of king Henry II. and was born at Oxford, in 1166. He ascended the throne in 1199, after the

D

death

death of his brother Richard I. though Arthur, duke of Brittany, to whom it lawfully belonged, as being the son of Geoffrey, his eldest brother disputed it with him; but the young prince being taken by surprize at Mirabeau in Brittany, in 1202, was murdered in prison. Upon this, Constance, the mother of Arthur, implored the assistance of Philip Augustus, king of France, who promised to strip him of all the lands he possessed in France; and pope Innocent III. not only excommunicated him, but absolved all his subjects from their oath of allegiance.

At length the pope sent Pandulph his nuncio into England, who offered the king the pope's protection, on condition of his swearing to obey the pontiff, and to resign his crown to him. To this John consented, and repairing to Dover church, in the presence of the priests and people, took off his crown, disrobed himself, and laid all his ensigns of royalty at the feet of the nuncio, who was seated on a throne. After which he signed a paper, by which he resigned the kingdom of England, with the lordship of Ireland, to the holy see; and bound himself as a vassal, to pay 700 marks annually for England, and 300 for Ireland; and then did homage to the
pope

pope in the person of his nuncio, who kept the crown and sceptre five days in his possession.

The barons of England, fired with indignation at this meanness, and oppressed by the heavy taxes with which he loaded them, had recourse to arms, and demanded a re-establishment of the laws of Edward the Confessor, and a renewal of the charter of Henry I. which being refused by the king, they chose Robert Fitzwalter for their general, marched to London, and besieged him in the Tower. The king complied when he could no longer resist, and agreed to meet the barons in Runnymede, or the Mead of Council, between Staines and Windsor; and there being unable to obtain supplies from his people, and finding himself too weak to withstand his enemies, granted whatever they desired; and hence arose that famous charter of liberties, called *Magna Charta*, which he was obliged to sign, and also the charter of the liberties of the forest; charters that have been since esteemed the foundation of the English liberties.

The king, however, though he had ratified these charters with a most solemn oath, brought over an army from Flanders, and ravaged the whole kingdom.

Upon this the barons applied for assistance to the king of France, promising the crown to his son Lewis, if he would come with a force sufficient to rescue them from the tyranny of John.

Lewis soon came to their assistance, landed at Sandwich, and took Rochester, while John retired to Winchester, having prevailed on the pope to excommunicate both the French king and the English barons; but being deserted by some of his mercenaries, the dauphin besieged Dover, while the barons invested Windsor; after which the country was ravaged by both parties, who came to no engagement. At length, grief and fatigue threw the king into a fever, which is said to have been heightened by his eating of peaches and drinking new ale. He died at Newark, October 18, 1216, in the 51st year of his age, and the 17th of his reign. Others say, that he was poisoned by a monk.

John was in his person taller than the middle size, of a good shape, and agreeable countenance. With respect to his disposition, it is strongly delineated in the transactions of his reign. If his understanding was contemptible, his heart was the object of detestation: we find him slothful, shallow, proud, imperious, sudden,

den, rash, cruel, vindictive, perfidious, cowardly, libidinous, and inconstant; abject in adversity, and overbearing in success; contemned and hated by his subjects, over whom he tyrannized to the utmost of his power; abhorred by the clergy, whom he oppressed with exactions; and despised by all the neighbouring princes of Europe.

Though he might have passed through life without incurring such a load of odium and contempt, had not his reign been perplexed by the turbulence of his barons, the rapaciousness of the pope, and the ambition of such a monarch as Philip Augustus, his character could never have afforded one quality that would have exempted him from the disgust and scorn of his people. Nevertheless, it must be acknowledged that his reign is not altogether barren of laudable transactions. He regulated the form of the civil government in the city of London, and several other places in the kingdom: he was the first who coined sterling money, introduced the laws of England into Ireland, and granted to the Cinque-ports those privileges of which they are still possessed.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1202. The affize of bread was first appointed.

1212. July 10. Great part of London was destroyed by fire; and near 3000 people perished by this accident, some by water, and some by fire.

1212. London bridge, built of stone, was finished.

King John, as already observed, was the first king of England who coined sterling money, and gave the Cinque-ports the privileges which they now enjoy.

H E N R Y III.

HENRY III. king of England, commonly called *Henry of Winchester*, from his being born in that city, was born October 1, 1207, and succeeded his father, king John, the 28th of October, 1216, when he was only nine years of age. Lewis, the dauphin of France, afterwards king Lewis VIII. who was called in by the barons against king John, was then in England; but having received a large sum of money, returned into France. When Henry was of age, he began with exacting large sums of money, and

and annulling the two sacred charters granted by his father. He landed in Britany with a numerous army, in order to recover the British dominions in France; but, spending his time in diversions, he shamefully returned, after having spent all his treasures. Afterwards renewing the war, he lost all Poitou, and then concluded a peace with Lewis for five years, to purchase which, Henry agreed to pay him 5000 pounds annually.

The king, who paid no regard to the constitution of England, met with many mortifications from his parliament and people, who at length obliged him to renew the two charters; which was done in Westminster-hall in the following manner, viz. the peers being assembled in the presence of the king, each holding a lighted taper, the archbishop of Canterbury denounced a terrible curse against those who should violate the laws, or alter the constitutions of the kingdom. Then the charters were read aloud, and confirmed by the king, who all this time kept his hand upon his breast: after which every one threw his taper on the ground, to raise a great smoke, and wished that those who violated the charters might smoke in hell. After which, the parliament

ment granted him a subsidy for suppressing an insurrection in Guienne. He soon reduced that province, and returned to England where he renewed his exactions.

The people being still oppressed, and the barons finding that Henry could not be bound by the most solemn oaths, undertook to reform the government: accordingly commissioners were chosen by the king and the barons, and articles agreed on, which the king again broke. At last they came to an open war, when a decisive battle was fought near Lewes, in Sussex, in which the king's army was defeated, and himself, prince Edward, and the king of the Romans, taken prisoners. But afterwards the earls of Leicester and Gloucester quarrelling, the latter joined prince Edward, who had escaped from his keepers, and uniting their forces, marched against the earl of Leicester, whom they defeated and slew. The king was then set at liberty, but peace was not restored till some time after; when prince Edward engaged in a crusade, and went to the Holy Land. His father, king Henry, did not live to see him return, but died at London, on the 16th of November, 1272, aged 65, in the 56th year of his reign, and was buried in Westminster-abbey. He had nine children

children, whereof only two sons, Edward and Edmund, and two daughters, Margaret and Beatrix, survived him.

Henry was of a middle size and robust make, and his countenance had a peculiar cast from his left eye-lid, which hung down so far as to cover part of his eye. He was a prince of very mean talents; irresolute, inconstant, and capricious; proud, insolent, and arbitrary; arrogant in prosperity, and abject in adversity; profuse, rapacious, and choleric, though destitute of liberality, œconomy, and courage. Yet his continence was praiseworthy, as well as his aversion to cruelty; for he contented himself with punishing the rebels in their effects, when he might have glutted his revenge with their blood. He was prodigal even to excess, and therefore always in necessity. Notwithstanding the great sums he levied from his subjects, and though his occasions were never so pressing, he could not help squandering away his money upon worthless favourites, without considering the difficulty he always found in obtaining supplies from parliament.

Remarkable

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1217. The order of Franciscans, or Cordeliers, settled in England this year ; as did also the Dominicans.

1218. St. Peter's house in Cambridge was founded by Hugh de Balsam, tenth bishop of Ely.

1220. Thomas a Becket's bones were enshrined in gold, set with precious stones, by the then archbishop.

1221. The first stone of Westminster-abbey was laid.

1222. Three impostors, one of whom pretended to be Jesus Christ, were sentenced to perpetual imprisonment, and to be fed on bread and water.

1223. A synod was held, which forbid the marriage of priests.

1225. Two impostors were executed, one for pretending to be the Virgin Mary, and the other Mary Magdalen.

1242. Aldermen were first elected in London.

1246. Tiles were first brought into use.

1251. Wales was wholly subdued, and received the English laws.

1251. Magna Charta was solemnly confirmed.

1253.

EDWARD I. 47

1253. Fine linen was first made in England.

1269. The bones of Edward the Confessor were enshrined in gold, and set with precious stones.

EDWARD I.

EDWARD I. king of England, surnamed *Long Shanks*, was the son of Henry III. and born at Winchester, June 16, 1239. He carried on a crusade against the Saracens, where, with only 10,000 Englishmen, he struck a general panic into the infidels. He there narrowly escaped being murdered, being wounded by an assassin in the arm with a poisoned dagger; and it is said that he owed his life to the affection of his queen Eleanor, who sucked the venom out of the wound. While he was on his return from Palestine, he heard of the death of his father, which happened in 1272; and arriving in England with his queen, they were both crowned on the 9th of August, 1274. He began his reign by confirming the Magna Charta, and by making a strict enquiry into the affairs of the kingdom. He then defeated and slew Lewellyn, prince of Wales, who had revolted; and afterwards

afterwards summoning a parliament at Ruthen, it was there resolved that Wales should be united to England: when some of the Welch nobles telling the king, that he would never peaceably enjoy their country, till they were governed by a prince of their own nation, he sent for the queen to lie-in at Caernarvon, where being delivered of a prince, the states acknowledged him for their sovereign; and, since that time, the eldest sons of the kings of England have borne the title of prince of Wales. Soon after, queen Eleanor dying at Grantham, in Lincolnshire, Edward erected a cross at every place where the corpse rested in the way to Westminster.

Edward then carrying his arms into Scotland, took Berwick, Dunbar, and Edinburgh; and John Baliol, their king, repairing to Edward, renewed his oath of fidelity, and put the whole kingdom in his power. But, while Edward was endeavouring to recover some dominions which he had lost in France by treachery, the brave William Wallace rose up in the defence of his country, and having suddenly dispossessed the English of all the strong places they held, was declared regent of the kingdom: on which Edward hastily returned from France, advanced
into

E

Native

slative capacity than eminent for his military prowess. He new modelled the administration of justice, so as to render it more sure and summary; he fixed proper bounds to the different courts of jurisdiction; settled a new and easy method of collecting the revenue, and established wise and effectual regulations for preserving peace and order among his subjects. Yet, with all these good qualities, he cherished a dangerous ambition, to which he did not scruple to sacrifice the good of his country. That he was arbitrary in his disposition, appears in many instances of his reign, particularly that of seizing for his own use the merchandize of his subjects. The cruelty of his nature was manifested in every expedition he undertook either in Wales or Scotland. Though he is celebrated for his chastity and regular deportment, there is not, in the whole course of his reign, one instance of liberality or munificence. He had great abilities, but no genius; and was an accomplished warrior without the least spark of heroism.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1279. Two hundred and eighty Jews were hanged for clipping and coining.

1285:

EDWARD II. 51

1285. Westminster-abbey, which had been sixty years in building, was finished this year.

1286. May 2. The Jews were all seized by order of the king, who extorted twelve thousand pounds of silver from them.

1299. Spectacles were first invented by a monk of Pisa.

1302. The magnetic needle first brought into use.

EDWARD II. surnamed OF CAERNARVON.

EDWARD II. king of England, was born at Caernarvon, April 25, 1284, and succeeded his father, Edward I. in 1307, at 23 years of age. He recalled Piers Gaveston, the debaucher of his youth, whom his father had banished. Then marrying Isabella of France, the daughter of Philip the Fair, they were both crowned at Westminster, on the 24th of February, 1308. His ridiculous fondness for Gaveston occasioned innumerable disputes, till at length the barons had recourse to arms, and Gaveston was beheaded. An accommodation was afterwards effected between the king and the

E 2 barons,

barons, and peace restored in 1312. The same year the queen was delivered of a son, who was named Edward. In the mean time the Scots obtained three victories over the English, and made themselves masters of every place in Scotland. This weak prince raised the two Spencers, father and son, to the summit of power; who being banished by the parliament, the king levied an army, took some castles from the barons, and recalled his two favourites.

Some time after, Edward invaded Scotland; but wanting provisions, he returned without striking a blow: on which Bruce, king of Scotland, pursued him to York, and, after having destroyed twenty thousand of the English, consented to a peace for thirteen years. The two Spencers soon incurred the general hatred; and queen Isabella flying to France with her son, the nobility sent for her; when landing, and proceeding towards London with a numerous army, the king fled into the West: she still pursued him, and he set sail for Ireland, but was driven back into Wales, and being taken, was sent prisoner to the queen. Hugh Spencer, the father, was hanged and quartered, without

without a trial, and the young Spencer hanged on a gibbet 50 feet high.

The queen was entirely governed by Roger Mortimer, earl of March, whom she took to her bed : and the king being obliged to resign the crown in 1327, his son Edward was proclaimed king. After which, the late sovereign was treated with the greatest indignities, and at last inhumanly murdered in Berkley castle : for some assassins having covered him with a feather-bed, held him down, while others conveyed a horn pipe up his body, through which they thrust a red hot iron, and thus burnt his bowels. His body was buried in a private manner in the abbey-church at Gloucester, and it was given out that he died a natural death.

Thus perished Edward II. after having atoned by his sufferings for all the errors of his conduct. He resembled his father in the accomplishments of his person, as well as in his countenance ; but in other respects he seems to have inherited only the defects of his character ; for he was cruel and illiberal, without his valour or capacity. He had levity, indolence, and irresolution, in common with other weak princes ; but the distinguishing foible of his character was that unaccountable passion

for the reigning favourite, to which he sacrificed every other consideration of policy and convenience; and at last fell a miserable victim. Yet his bitterest enemies never alledged that any thing unnatural entered into the composition of that singular attachment which he expressed for Gaveston and the younger Spencer. In this reign there was the most terrible earthquake that had ever been felt in England, and a dreadful famine, which lasted three years, and destroyed a vast number of people.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1309. Crockery ware was invented.

1316. Exeter college, Oxford, was founded by Walter Stapleton, bishop of Exeter.

1316. On account of a great famine this year, the parliament limited the price of provisions as follows: an ox for sixteen shillings; a cow, twelve shillings; a hog, two years old, three and four-pence; a sheep unshorn, one shilling and eight-pence; if shorn, one shilling and two-pence; a goose, two-pence halfpenny; a capon, two-pence; a hen, one penny; twenty-four eggs, one penny; a quarter of wheat, beans, or pease, sold for twenty shillings; and

EDWARD III. 55

and whoever did not comply with this regulation, forfeited the provisions to the king.

1319. The university of Dublin was founded.

1322. The order of the Knights Templars was abolished by pope Clement the First.

1326. Oriel college in Oxford was founded by the king, or his almoner, Adam de Blome.

EDWARD III.

EDWARD III. was born at Windsor, November 15, 1312, and was placed on the throne the 26th day of January, 1327, at 14 years of age, while his father Edward II. was living. Though a regency was appointed by the parliament, the queen and Roger Mortimer had the sole authority; and, influenced by them, the young king not only renounced all pretensions to Scotland, but gave his sister in marriage to David Bruce, king of the Scots: yet, afterwards, becoming sensible of the queen's ill conduct, he confined her for life, and caused Mortimer, earl of March, to be hanged at Tyburn. He then

56 E D W A R D III.

then broke the truce with Scotland, invaded that kingdom, and obliged king David to fly with his queen into France, when he set up Edward Baliol, son of John Baliol, in his room. The king of England marched an army to lay siege to Berwick, which was still in king David's hands. The regent of Scotland advanced with a great army to its relief, but Edward met him at Halidowne-hill, and in a bloody battle, A.D. 1333, entirely routed him: after which Berwick surrendered, which Edward annexed for ever to the crown of England. However, the Scots drove Baliol out of the kingdom; upon which Edward marched with a numerous army, in 1335, and attacked Scotland by sea and land, whereupon they submitted. Edward now laid claim to France; for Charles, his mother's brother, dying, Philip of Valois had possessed himself of the kingdom, alledging the Salic law; but Edward asserted, that the Salic law, in excluding females from the succession, did not exclude their male issue; on which he grounded his title. His first campaign passed without bloodshed, but he took the title of king of France, and quartered his arms with the fleurs de lis, adding the motto, *Dieu et mon droit*, or, God and my right.

right. However, in his next attempt, he defeated the French fleet. He then besieged Tournay; but being called home to oppose the Scots, concluded a truce for one year with Philip king of France. In the next campaign he ravaged all the country up to the walls of Paris, and his son, the Black Prince of Wales, at sixteen years of age, won the glorious battle of Cressy. Six weeks after this, queen Philippa defeated the Scots, and took king David prisoner. These memorable victories were obtained in 1346. Edward then laid siege to Calais, and, having reduced it by famine, returned to England. He soon after sent the Black Prince, who, after taking several towns, totally routed the French army, commanded by king John, who had succeeded Philip; and in this memorable battle, which was fought near Poitiers, took the king, many nobles, and a multitude of private men, prisoners, though the French army was six times as numerous as the English. Thus Edward had the honour of having two kings his prisoners at the same time, John of France, and David Bruce, king of Scotland. The king of Scotland, who resided at Odiham, in Hampshire, was afterwards ransomed for 100,000 marks; and the French king,
who

who lived at the Savoy, agreed to pay for his ransom 500,000 pounds, and a considerable extent of country.

Charles, king of France, afterwards carried on a war with Edward, when the English were driven from all the places they had so nobly conquered, except Calais. However, a truce was concluded between the two crowns in 1374.

On June 8, 1376, died Edward, prince of Wales, the delight of the nation, in the 46th year of his age. He was called the Black Prince, from his wearing black armour. The parliament attended his corpse to Canterbury, where he was interred.

King Edward distinguished himself by instituting the order of the Garter; and died at Richmond, in Surry, June 21, 1377, in the 65th year of his age, and the 51st of his reign, and was interred in Westminster-abbey.

Edward III. was doubtless one of the greatest princes that ever swayed the scepter of England, whether we respect him as a warrior or a lawgiver, a monarch or a man. He was tall, majestic, finely shaped, with a piercing eye, and aquiline visage. He excelled all his cotemporaries in feats of arms and personal address. He was courteous,

teous, affable, and eloquent, of a free deportment, and agreeable conversation, and had the art of commanding the affection of his subjects without seeming to solicit popularity. He was a constitutional knight errant, and his example diffused the spirit of chivalry through the whole nation. The love of glory was certainly the predominant passion of Edward, to the gratification of which he did not scruple to sacrifice the feelings of humanity, the lives of his subjects, and the interest of his country. And nothing could have induced or enabled his people to bear the load of taxes with which they were incumbered in this reign, but the love and admiration of his person, the fame of his victories, and the excellent law and regulations which the parliaments enacted with his advice and concurrence.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1330. Gunpowder was invented by Swarth, a monk of Cologne.

1331. The art of weaving silk was brought from Flanders to England by John Kemp,

1340. Edward took the title of *King of France*, and quartered with his own arms the fleurs de lis of France. At the same time he used the motto, *Dieu et mon droit*.

1344.

1344. Gold was first coined in England.

1346. August 24. Cannon, or great guns, first used by the English at the battle of Cressy.

1352. At this time the largest silver coin in England was a groat.

1361. A great plague in England, which, between January and July, took off in London 57,374 persons, and in Paris 30,000.

1362. An act was made, that the council should plead in the English language, French having been used before that time.

1362. The king being arrived at his fiftieth year, granted a general pardon for all offences.

RICHARD II.

RICHARD II. king of England, was the son of Edward the Black Prince, and was born at Bourdeaux, January 6, 1366. He succeeded his grandfather, Edward III. the 21st of June, 1377, at eleven years of age; when the parliament appointed several governors to the king, and ordered that his three uncles, with some of the nobility, should be regents of the kingdom. A truce, which had been agreed to with France, being now expired, the French sent a fleet to ravage the coasts
of

of England, and the regents ordered out a fleet to oppose them. The king of France also prevailed on Robert II. king of Scotland, to invade England; but the French king dying, the military preparations were suspended. In 1380, a poll-tax being raised on all persons above 15 years of age, for the assistance of Ferdinand, king of Portugal, against John, king of Castile, it was levied with the greatest rigour and brutality by the collectors, on which a rebellion was raised, and 100,000 men appeared in arms, headed by Wat Tyler, a tyler of Deptford, and Jack Straw, who committed innumerable disorders, and entered London without opposition: but William Walworth, the mayor, killing Wat Tyler with a blow of his sword, this great army was easily dispersed. The kingdom soon after becoming greatly exasperated at the ridiculous fondness shewn by the king for his new favourites, Robert de Vere, earl of Oxford, and Michael de la Pole, a merchant's son, whom he had created earl of Suffolk, the parliament refused to grant the supplies, unless he dismissed them from his service. But though the king said, that "to please the parliament he would not turn out the meanest scullion in his kitchen," and sent his chancellor to

F

order

order them to grant the desired subsidy, he was obliged to part with his favourites, and to admit of fourteen commissioners to take care of the public affairs jointly with himself. The parliament were, however, no sooner dissolved, than they were recalled, and the king sent orders to the sheriffs, to let no representatives be chosen but what were in his list. He also endeavoured to raise an army, to chastise his uncle, the duke of Gloucester, and the earls of Arundel, Warwick, Derby, and Nottingham, who were enemies to his favourites, and were considered as the protectors of the people : but these lords speedily levying forces, defeated the earl of Oxford, who had been made duke of Ireland ; when the king took refuge in the Tower, where, the next year, he answered the complaints of the lords with a shower of tears, consented to the banishment of his favourites, who were accordingly sent into exile, and repeated his coronation oath. In 1392, the Londoners refusing to lend the king a sum of money, he took away their charter, and removed the courts of justice to York. Anne of Luxemburgh, the emperor's daughter, and the king's first wife, dying in 1394, he, in 1396, married Isabella, the daughter of Charles VI king of France, who

who was only seven years of age, when a truce was concluded for twenty-eight years. Richard, however, extorted money from his subjects, and, for inconsiderable sums, yielded Cherburg to the king of Navarre, and Brest to the duke of Brittany. He ordered the duke of Gloucester to be seized and conveyed to Calais, where he was privately strangled, and some of the nobility were beheaded, and others banished. The Scots ravaged the borders of England, the Irish revolted, and the merchant-ships were plundered with impunity by the corsairs of Holland. Seventeen counties were condemned as guilty of treason, and the estates of all the inhabitants adjudged to the king, for granting assistance to the duke of Gloucester; but the king landing in Ireland in 1399, with a powerful army, in order to chastise the rebels, a rebellion was raised in his absence, when the king, at his return, finding that the revolt was general, shut himself up in Conway castle in Wales. He soon after submitted to Henry duke of Lancaster, and was sent to the Tower; when a parliament being called, he was solemnly deposed, and Henry proclaimed king, on the 30th of September, 1399; after which Richard was removed to Pontefract castle, in

64 RICHARD II.

Yorkshire: but on the 14th of February, 1400, Sir Pierce Exton, with eight ruffians, undertook to murder him, hoping thereby to please king Henry IV. and rushed into the room where he was, when Richard bravely wrested a pole-ax from one of the assassins, with which he slew four of them; but Exton mounting on a chair behind him, struck him on the head with such violence, that he dropped down dead in the 33d year of his age, after a reign of 22 years, and was interred at King's Langley, in Hertfordshire; but his body was afterwards removed to Westminster-abbey, by order of king Henry V.

Richard II. had a very graceful person, and was of a sprightly disposition. He was, however, a weak, vain, frivolous, and inconstant prince; a dupe to flattery, and a slave to ostentation. He was idle, profuse, and profligate: and though brave by starts, naturally pusillanimous and irresolute. His pride and resentment prompted him to cruelty and breach of faith, while his necessities obliged him to fleece his people, and degrade the dignity of his character and station. He had no issue by either of his two marriages.

Remarkable

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1378. John Philpot, an alderman of London, fits out a fleet at his own expence, and takes a great number of prizes.

1378. Greenland was this year discovered by a Venetian.

1381. Bills of exchange are first mentioned as used this year.

1387. The first high admiral of England was appointed.

1388. Bombs were invented this year by a man at Venlo.

1391. Playing cards were invented for the amusement of the king of France.

1398. Cheshire erected into a principality.

In this reign the ladies wore high dresses on their heads, piked horns, with long-trained gowns, and rode on side-saddles, after the example of the princess Ann of Bohemia, who first brought that fashion into this country, before which time they used to ride astride like men.

H E N R Y IV. Surnamed OF BOLLINGBROKE.

HENRY IV. duke of Lancaster and Hereford, was born in 1367, and proclaimed king after the deposition of Richard II. on the 30th of September,

F 3

1399,

1399. He was the eldest son of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, third son of Edward III. He had not a just claim to the crown, which of right belonged to Edmund Mortimer, earl of March, then duke of York, the descendant of Lionel, duke of Clarence, the second son of Edward III. which occasioned the wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, under the device of the white rose and red. The next year, the dukes of Exeter, Surrey, and Albemarle, the earls of Salisbury and Gloucester, the bishop of Carlisle, and Sir Thomas Blount, the friends of Richard, formed a conspiracy, in order to assassinate Henry, and restore Richard to the throne: but being discovered, and their whole scheme frustrated, they assembled an army of 40,000 men, and set up Maudlin, a priest, whose person resembled Richard, to pretend that he was Richard himself; but in this they also failed, most of the leaders were taken and beheaded, and Maudlin was hanged at London. This conspiracy hastened the death of the unfortunate king Richard, who was soon after basely murdered at Pontefract. In 1402, Henry caused Sir Roger Clarendon, the natural son of Edward the Black Prince, and several others, to be put to death,

death, for maintaining that Richard was alive. The same year he married Johanna of Navarre, widow of the duke of Brittany.

About this time the Scots invaded England, under the earl of Douglas, but were defeated at Halidown-hill, by the earl of Northumberland, and his son Henry Hotspur, with the loss of above 10,000 men; and in this victory several earls, and many other persons of consequence, were made prisoners: but the king ordering Northumberland to deliver up the prisoners into his hands, the earl was so exasperated, that he, with Henry Percy, surnamed Hotspur, his son, and other lords, agreed to crown Edmund Mortimer, earl of March, whom Owen Glendowr kept prisoner in Wales. The rebel army were encamped near Shrewsbury, headed by Henry Hotspur, the earl of Worcester, and the Scotch earl of Douglas: and the king marched directly thither, with 14,000 choice troops, headed by himself, the prince of Wales, and the earl of Dunbar; and, on the 22d of July, 1403, at a place afterwards called Battle-field, the king obtained so complete a victory, that about 10,000 of the rebels were killed, among whom was the brave Hotspur, who fell by the hands of the prince of Wales. In 1405, another
con-

conspiracy was raised, headed by the archbishop of York, the earl of Northumberland, Thomas Mowbray, earl marshal, and other noblemen, who assembled a large body of troops at York, and published a manifesto, declaring the king a traitor, and that they were resolved to place Mortimer, the lawful heir, on the throne. But this rebellion was soon suppressed, by the policy of Ralph Nevil, earl of Westmoreland.

Henry died in the Jerusalem Chamber at Westminster, on the 20th of March, 1413, in the 46th year of his age, and the 14th of his reign, and was interred in the cathedral at Canterbury.

Henry IV. was of the middle stature, well proportioned, and perfect in all the exercises of arms and chivalry : his countenance was severe rather than serene ; and his disposition sour, fullen, and reserved. He possessed a great share of courage, fortitude, and penetration ; was naturally imperious, tho' he bridled his temper with caution ; superstitious, though without the least tincture of virtue and true religion ; and meanly parsimonious, though justly censured for want of œconomy, and ill-judged profusion. He rose to the throne by perfidy and treason ; established his authority

thority in the blood of his subjects; and died a penitent for his sins, because he could no longer enjoy the fruits of his transgressions.

His actions had very little worthy or eminent in them; one thing, at least, has fixed an indelible stain on his memory, viz. his being the first burner of hereticks.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1399. Geoffrey Chaucer, the poet, died this year.

1407. A great plague in London, which swept away above 30,000 inhabitants.

1407. The collars of SS were first worn in England.

HENRY V. Surnamed OF MONMOUTH.

HENRY V. the eldest son of king Henry IV. was born in 1388, and succeeded his father in 1413. Though wild and unruly in his youth, he no sooner obtained the crown, than he proved himself a wise and a warlike prince. He chose a council of state, composed of men of distinguished wisdom, and commanded those who had been the companions of his irregularities, either to change their manners, or never to approach his person. He revived the English title to the crown
of

of France, and in 1415 embarked his army, amounting to 15,000 men, and having landed at Havre de Grace, laid siege to Harfleur, which surrendered in five weeks. Soon after, the French king having assembled an army six times as numerous as that of Henry, challenged him to fight, and Henry consented, though the French army consisted of 150,000 men, and the English were reduced by sickness to 9000. The French, therefore, made rejoicings in their camp, as if the English were already defeated, and even sent to Henry to know what he would give for his ransom; to which he replied, "A few hours would shew whose care it would be to make that provision." The English, though fatigued with their march, sick of a flux, and almost starved for want of food, were inspired by the example of their brave king, and resolved to conquer or die. On the 25th of October, 1415, the king being encamped near Agincourt, drew up his small army into two lines, the first commanded by the duke of York, and the second by himself: he disposed his few men to such advantage, and behaved with such extraordinary conduct and courage, that he gained a complete victory, after having been several times knocked down,
and

his
nd
id
in
ng
a-
m
ne
n,
fs
le
h
to
or
A
d
,
f
,
r
.
g
p
t
e
v
n
,
r
,
l





King Henry the 5.th Names the Battle of Agincourt.

and in the most imminent danger of losing his life. The English killed upwards of 10,000 men, and took more prisoners than they had men in the army. The English lost only the duke of York, the earl of Suffolk, a few knights, and 400 private men. In 1417, the king, to enable himself to carry on the war, pledged his crown for 100,000 marks, and part of his jewels for 10,000 pounds; then landing at Beville in Normandy, he reduced Caen, and the next year subdued all Normandy. On May 21, 1420, a treaty was concluded at Troye, which was ratified by the states of France. By this treaty, the dauphin was disinherited, and Henry V. married Catharine of France, and was declared regent of that kingdom till the death of Charles VI. when he was to take possession of that crown. But, notwithstanding this treaty, the war was continued by the dauphin, and the next year Henry advanced into France with 30,000 men; but while he was marching towards the river Loire, he was seized with a pleuritic fever, and was carried to Vincennes, where he expired on the 31st of August, 1422, in the 34th year of his age, after a glorious reign of nine years, four months, and eleven days. His body was conveyed to England, and interred in Westminster-abbey.

The queen dowager, some time after, married Owen Tudor, a Welch gentleman, by whom she had Edmund, the father of Henry, earl of Richmond, who became king of England under the name of Henry VII.

King Henry V. was tall and slender, with a long neck, engaging aspect, and limbs of the most elegant turn. He excelled all the youth of that age in agility, and the exercise of arms; was hardy, patient, and laborious. His valour was such as no danger could startle, and no difficulty oppose: nor was his policy inferior to his courage. He managed the dissensions among his enemies with such address, as spoke him consummate in the arts of the cabinet. He was chaste, temperate, modest, and devout, scrupulously just in his administration, and severely exact in the discipline of his army, upon which he knew his glory and success in a great measure depended. In a word, it must be owned he was without an equal in the arts of war, policy, and government. His great qualities, however, were somewhat obscured by his ambition, and his natural propensity to cruelty.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1417. April 14. The king ordered Holborn

born to be paved, it not having been paved before.

1418. A plague broke out in Paris that carried off 40,000 persons in three months.

1420. Vines and sugar canes were planted this year in Madeira.

1422. The two courts of England and France were held at Paris, and on Whitsunday the two kings and queens dined together in public.

H E N R Y VI.

HENRY VI. was born at Windsor, December 6, 1421, and succeeded his father, Henry V. in 1422, when but nine months old, and reigned in England under the tutelage of his uncle Humphrey, duke of Gloucester, and in France under that of his uncle the duke of Bedford. This unhappy prince was unsuccessful both at home and abroad. His misfortunes began in France, by the death of his grandfather, Charles VI. not quite two months after the death of his father, king Henry, which gave great advantage to the dauphin, who was called Charles VII. and being crowned at Poitiers, disputed with Henry the crown of France: yet for some time the English continued to have great success in that kingdom, and gained the

G

famous

famous battle of Crevant, Vernueille, and Rouvroi; and every thing seemed to promise the entire possession of France, when it was prevented by an unforeseen blow. A girl, known by the name of Joan of Arc, or the Maid of Orleans, suddenly appeared at the head of the French army, and, in 1429, made the English raise the siege of Orleans. From that moment Henry's interest in France declined. However, he was carried to Paris, and crowned there with a double crown in the cathedral church, on the 17th of December, 1430. In 1444, a truce of eighteen months was concluded between the two crowns; after which king Henry married Margaret of Anjou, daughter of Renatus, king of Naples. This was the source of many of his misfortunes; for the king being of a mild and easy temper, and the queen a high-spirited woman, she undertook, with her favourites, to govern the kingdom. The English were now every where defeated, and in 1441 we had no places left in France but Calais, and the earldom of Guines. These losses were principally occasioned by the civil wars which broke out in England. Richard, duke of York, who descended on the mother's side from Lionel, the second son of Edward III. claimed

claimed a better right to the crown than Henry, who was descended from John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, the third son of the same Edward. Henry was defeated, and made prisoner, at St. Alband's, by Richard Plantagenet, duke of York, on the 31st of May, 1455, and a second time at the battle of Northampton, on the 19th of July, 1460. The parliament then determined, that Henry should keep the crown, and be succeeded by the duke of York: but queen Margaret afterwards raised an army in the North, and gained the battle of Wakefield, December 30, 1460, in which the duke of York was killed, and her husband delivered. This turned the scale, and sunk the interest of the house of York. However, Edward, earl of March, the son of Richard, duke of York, revived the quarrel, and gained a bloody battle at Mortimer's Cross, near Ludlow. In short, the earl of March, after several engagements, was proclaimed king, by the name of Edward IV. by means of the earl of Warwick, called the Setter-up and Puller-down of kings.

Henry VI. was of a hale constitution, naturally insensible of affliction, and hackneyed in the vicissitudes of fortune. He was totally free from cruelty and revenge ;

on the contrary, he frequently sustained personal indignities of the grossest nature, without discovering the least mark of resentment. He was chaste, pious, compassionate, and charitable, and so inoffensive, that the bishop who was his confessor for ten years, declared, that in all that time he had never committed any sin that required penance or rebuke. In a word, he would have adorned a cloister, though he disgraced a crown; and was rather respectable for those vices he wanted, than for the virtues he possessed. He founded the college of Eton, near Windsor, and King's College in Cambridge, for the reception of those scholars, who had begun their studies at Eton.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1431. May 30. Joan of Arc, the maid of Orleans was burnt for a witch at Roan.

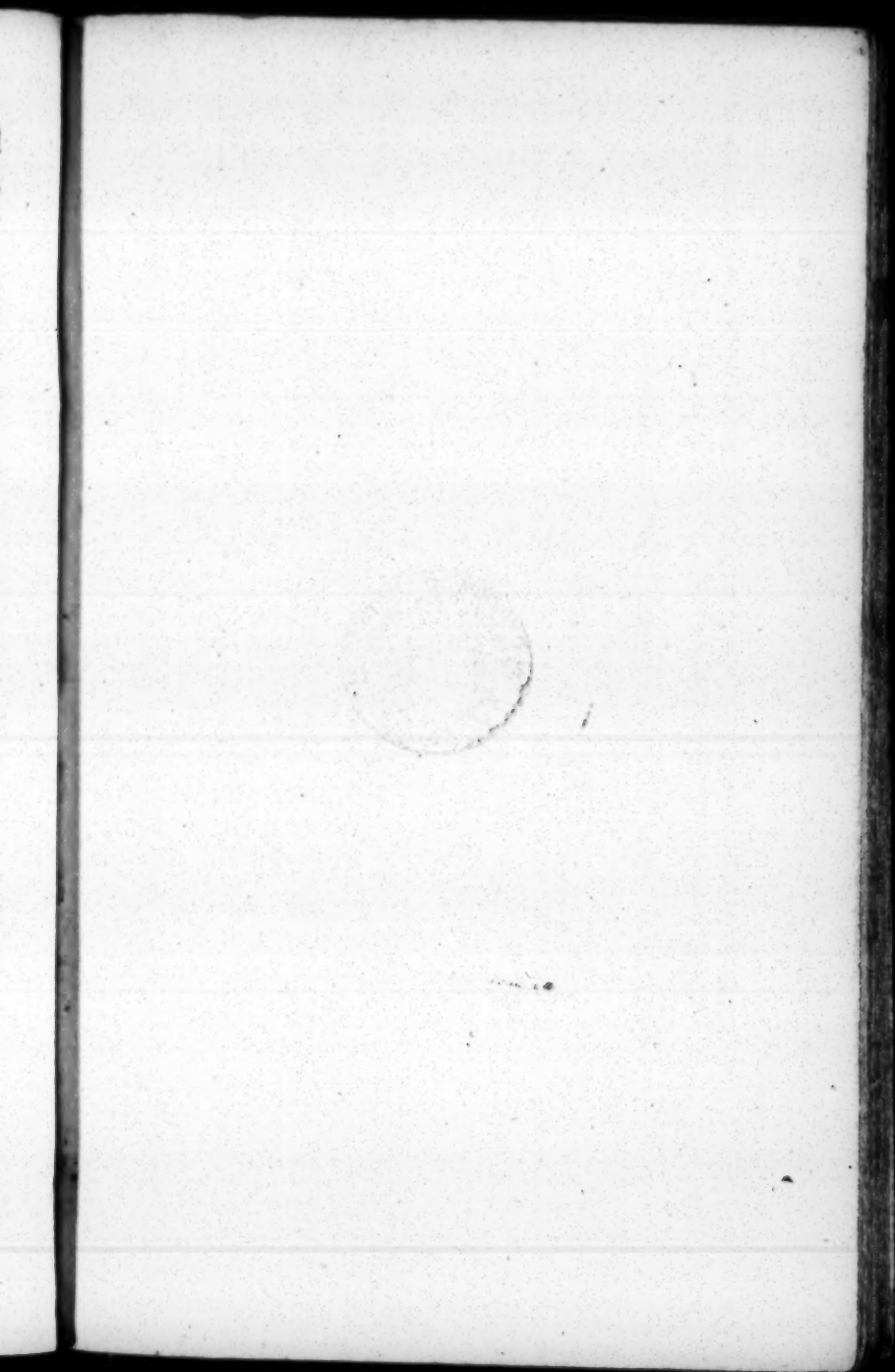
1434. A great frost, which lasted ten weeks, so that the Thames was frozen over below bridge as far as Gravesend.

1437. A great dearth, when wheat was sold for 2s. 6d. the bushel, and bread made of fern-roots and ivy-berries.

1453. This year was the first lord mayor's show at London.

1459. Engraving and etching on copper invented.

EDWARD





Lady Elizabeth Grey, at the Feet of Edw.^d the 4.th

E D W A R D IV.

EDWARD IV. earl of March, was the son of Richard, duke of York, and disputed the crown with Henry VI. who was of the house of Lancaster. Between these two families a great number of battles were fought, with different success; but at length Edward obtained the crown, March 5, 1461, by gaining a signal victory over Henry VI. whom he forced to fly into Scotland, with Margaret of Anjou, his consort. He afterwards gained another victory over the same unhappy prince, who, after his defeat, came into England in disguise, hoping to conceal himself there, till he should have an opportunity of escaping by sea. But unfortunately being discovered, and seized at Waddington-hall, in Lancashire, whilst he was at dinner, he was conducted to London, with his legs tied under a horse's belly, and then confined in the Tower. The earl of Warwick, who had chiefly contributed to raise Edward to the throne, was employed by that prince to negotiate a marriage for him in France. In the mean time Edward marrying Elizabeth, the widow of Sir John Grey, with whom the earl was in love, that nobleman was so ex-

asperated, that he raised a rebellion, in which he twice defeated the kings forces, and afterwards took his majesty prisoner, whom he confined in Middleham castle ; from whence he escaped, and joining lord Hastings in Lancashire, returned to London, when another battle ensued, and Warwick being defeated, was obliged to fly into France ; but soon after, landing at Dartmouth with a few troops, he soon encreased them to 60,000 men ; upon which Edward also raised a numerous army at Nottingham, but, as his enemies were advancing, the cry of king Henry being raised in his camp, Edward fled, and escaped into Flanders. Warwick then took Henry out of the Tower, and caused him to be acknowledged king of England. But Edward afterwards returning with a small force, was received at London with acclamations of joy ; and Henry, after a seven months phantom of sovereignty, was again confined in the Tower. Edward then marched against the earl of Warwick, and routed his army in a great battle near Barnet, where the earl himself was slain, with his brother the marquis of Montacute, and 17,000 of his men.

Some time after, queen Margaret having assembled an army, king Edward defeated her,

E D W A R D IV. 79

her, and took her prisoner, with her son prince Edward, who was soon after massacred, in the 18th year of his age; and, soon after, his father king Henry was murdered in the Tower, or, as others say, died with grief, in the 50th year of his age. Queen Margaret, after being four years confined, was ransomed by her father for 50,000 crowns. Edward caused his brother, the duke of Clarence, to be drowned in a butt of sack. Edward, being now at peace, spent his time in indolence and debauchery. His favourite mistress was Jane Shore, wife to a citizen of London. He died at Westminster, on April 9, 1483, in the 42d year of his age, and the 23d of his reign.

Edward IV. was a prince of the most elegant person, and insinuating address; endowed with the utmost fortitude and intrepidity; possessed of uncommon sagacity and penetration; but like all his ancestors, was brutally cruel and vindictive, perfidious, lewd, perjured, and rapacious; without one liberal thought, without one sentiment of humanity.

He was interred at Windsor, in the new chapel, the foundation of which he himself had laid.

Remarkable

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1461. A tradesman was executed for saying he would make his son heir to the crown, alluding to the sign of his house.

1463. The importation of woollen cloths, laces, and ribbons, and other articles manufactured in England, strictly forbidden.

1471. Printing was first brought into England by one Caxton, a mercer; and the first printing press was set up in Islip's chapel, Westminster-abbey, under the patronage of the abbot.

1472. A plague broke out in England this year, which carried off more than the fifteen years war.

1478. There was another great plague in England, which began in September, and ended in November.

E D W A R D V.

EDWARD V. eldest son of Edward IV. was born in 1470, and succeeded his father in 1483, at 12 years of age. He was at Ludlow when his father died, but being sent for to London, he, on the 4th of May, received the oaths of the principal nobility, and his uncle Richard, duke of Gloucester, was made protector of the king

king and kingdom. He obliged the queen to deliver up to him the duke of York, the king's brother, and sent them both to the Tower, under pretence of their waiting there till every thing was prepared for the coronation. Mean while the duke of Gloucester, by the assistance of the duke of Buckingham, Sir John Shaw, lord mayor of London, and Dr. Shaw his brother, had the two young princes declared illegitimate, and then caused himself to be acknowledged king of England, pretending to accept of the crown with reluctance; though he had put to death lord Hastings, for no other crime but his being warmly attached to the young king: however, as that nobleman was greatly beloved by the people, Gloucester pretended that his ambition and sorceries endangered the kingdom. The queen and Jane Shore were accused as his colleagues, and the latter was taken into custody, but soon after released, on doing penance. Sir Robert Brackenbury, lieutenant of the Tower, refusing to comply with Richard's cruel designs, he, for one night only, gave the command of that fortress to Sir James Tyrrel, and he procured two villains, who, in the dead of the night, entered the chamber where the princes lay, and smothered

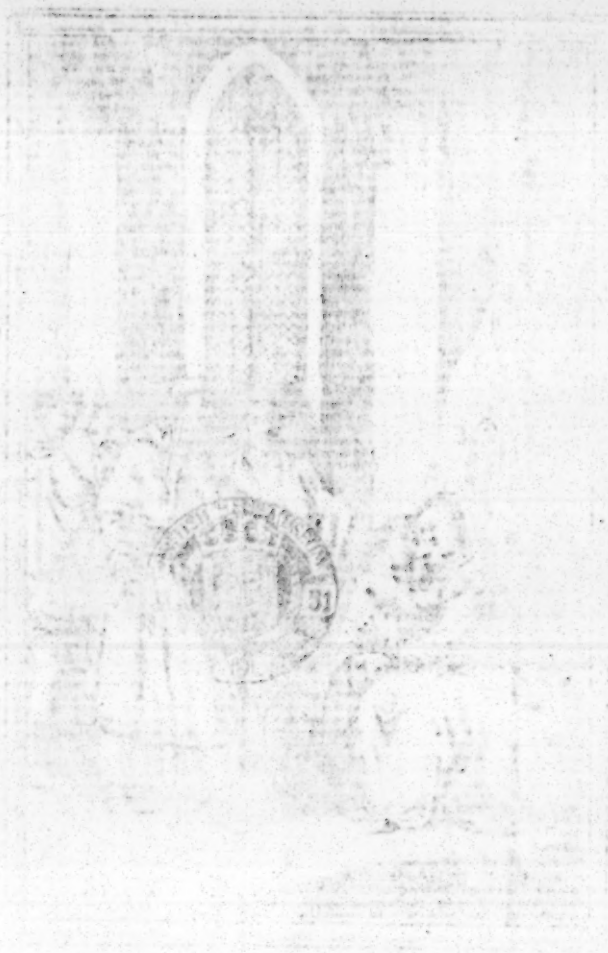
thered them in bed. Thus died Edward V. having reigned only two months and twelve days.

RICHARD III.

RICHARD III. king of England, surnamed *Crook back*, was the brother of Edward IV. and raised himself to the throne by a series of the most inhuman murders. Henry VI. and the young prince his son, with several noblemen of the first rank, died while he was duke of Gloucester, to prepare the way for his usurping the throne from Edward V. He was proclaimed king on the 20th of June, 1483, in the 32d year of his age, but delayed the ceremony of his coronation till the 6th of July, and soon after caused Edward V. and his brother, whom he had before declared to be bastards, to be smothered in the Tower. The same year, having broke his promise to the duke of Buckingham, who had been greatly instrumental in placing him on the throne, that nobleman took up arms against him, in order to assist Henry, earl of Richmond, the last branch of the house of Lancaster, to obtain the crown; but the duke being betrayed by a fellow who had been his servant, for the sake of a very great reward offered
for



*The Queen Dowager of Edward the 4.th
parting with the Duke of York.*



for apprehending him, he was beheaded at Salisbury, without any legal process. However, the earl of Richmond, obtaining assistance from the duke of Brittany, sailed from St. Maloes on the 12th of October, with 5000 men and 40 ships; but his fleet being dispersed, he returned to Brittany, and afterwards to France. Richard, in the mean time, sacrificed many persons to his revenge, and sent Sir Ralph Ashton into the western counties, with power to execute upon the spot all such persons whom he even suspected to be guilty of high treason; and finding that the earl of Richmond founded his projects on the hopes of marrying Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV. he resolved to marry that princess himself, tho' he was already married to the widow of Edward prince of Wales, the son of Henry VI. whom he had himself murdered; and therefore now, in order to obtain Elizabeth, he is said to have poisoned his queen. The earl of Richmond, however, landed in Wales, with 2000 men, which increased to 5000, and with this small army engaged the king's forces, which consisted of 13,000 men, at Bosworth, in Leicestershire: but the earl being joined by the Lord Stanley and his brother with fresh troops, he gained a complete victory; when

when Richard, seeing the day was lost, rushed into the midst of his enemies, and died with his sword in his hand. The crown being found after the battle, was placed on the head of the earl of Richmond; and Richard's body was taken up entirely naked, and covered with blood and dirt, in which condition it was thrown across a horse, carried to Leicester, and interred without the least ceremony. Thus fell king Richard, on the 22d of August, 1485, in the 34th year of his age, after an infamous reign of two years. He was buried in the Grey-friars church at Leicester.

Richard III. if any regard is to be paid to the generality of our historians, was, through the whole course of his life, restrained by no principle of justice or humanity; and it appears that he endeavoured to maintain the crown by the same fraud and violence by which he obtained it.

He certainly possessed an uncommon solidity of judgment, a natural fund of eloquence, the most acute penetration, and such courage as no danger could dismay. He was dark, silent, and reserved; and so much master of dissimulation, that it was almost impossible to dive into his real sentiments, when he wanted to conceal his designs. His stature was small, his aspect
cloudy,

H E N R Y V I I . 85

cloudy, severe, and forbidding ; one of his arms was withered, and one shoulder higher than the other, from which circumstances of deformity he acquired the epithet of *Crook-back*. He was the last king of the Plantagenet race, who had swayed the sceptre ever since Henry II.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1483. Post-horses and stages were established.

1483. There was an inundation of the river Severn this year, which lasted ten days, and men, women, and children, were carried away in their beds by the violence of it.

H E N R Y V I I .

HENRY VII. king of England, was the son of Edmund Tudor, earl of Richmond, and of Margaret of the house of Lancaster. He was crowned on the 30th of October, 1485. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV. by which the claims of the houses of York and Lancaster were united. However, fresh troubles broke out, and the enemies of Henry attempted twice to dethrone him, by setting up two pretenders: the first was one Lambert Simnel, a baker's son, who assumed

H
sumed

sumed the title of earl of Warwick, and pretended to be the son of the duke of Clarence, brother to Edward IV. but being defeated and taken prisoner, was made king Henry's turnspit. The other was an adventurer, named Perkin Warbeck, who personated Richard, duke of York, Edward the Fifth's brother, who was murdered in the Tower, and being at length taken prisoner, was hanged at Tyburn. Henry assisted the emperor Maximilian against Charles VIII. of France; he made war on the Scots; instituted the band of gentlemen pensioners; built the chapel adjoining to Westminster abbey, which still bears his name; and founded several colleges, by which he obtained the character of a pious prince, and a friend to learning, though he was remarkable for his avarice, and grievously oppressing the people by numberless exactions. He died at Richmond palace, which he had caused to be erected, the 22d of April, 1509, aged 52, in the 24th year of his reign, and was succeeded by his second son, Henry VIII. He also left two daughters, Margaret, who was married to James IV. king of Scotland, and Mary, who married the French king, Lewis XII.

Henry VII. was tall, straight, and well-shaped, though slender; of a grave aspect, and saturnine complexion. He inherited a natural fund of sagacity, which was improved by study and experience; nor was he deficient in personal bravery, or political courage. He was cool, close, cunning, dark, distrustful,

distrustful, and designing; and, of all the princes who had sat upon the English throne, the most sordid, selfish, and ignoble. At the same time, it must be owned, he was a wise legislator, chaste, temperate, assiduous in the exercise of religious duties; decent in his deportment, and exact in the administration of justice, when his own private interest was not concerned; though he frequently used religion and justice as cloaks for rapacity and oppression. His soul was continually agitated by two ruling passions, equally base and unkingly, namely, the fear of losing his crown, and the desire of amassing riches; and these motives influenced his whole conduct.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1485, Oct. 30. King Henry, on the day of his coronation, first instituted the yeomen of the guards.

1485. A new disease, called the sweating sickness, raged this year; it began in September, and, though it continued little more than a month, carried off many thousands; particularly in London, two mayors successively, and six aldermen died.

1487. The court of Star-chamber was instituted.

1488. The Cape of Good Hope was discovered.

1489. Maps and sea-charts first brought into England by Bartholomew Columbus.

1491. Greek first introduced into England.

1492. America was discovered this year by Christopher Columbus, a Genoeſe, October 11.

1497. The Eaſt Indies were diſcovered this year by a Portugueſe; and Florida, Jamaica, Porto Rico, Trindad, and Newfoundland, by Carbot, a Venetian.

1497. The Weſt Indies diſcovered by Columbus.

1500 May. There happened ſo great a plague in England, that it occaſioned the king and court to remove to Calais, and ſwept off upwards of 30,000 people in London.

1504. This year Henry the Seventh's chapel, at the eaſt end of Weſtminſter abbey, was built.

1505. Shillings firſt coined in England.

1507. The iſland of Madagaſcar diſcovered by the Portugueſe.

1507. The Dutch, by treaty, excluded from fiſhing on the coaſt of England.

1507. A ſweating ſickneſs raged this year.

1509. King Henry, a little before his death, publiſhed a general pardon to all his ſubjects, releaſed all debtors out of priſon, who did not owe more than forty ſhillings to any one man, paying their creditors out of his own purſe; and by his will commanded his ſucceſſor to make reſtitution to all men whom he had wronged by his extortions, to which his ſon paid no great regard.

He left behind him 1,800,000 pounds, which he had extorted from his ſubjects; but, to make ſome amends, he converted the
palace

H E N R Y V I I I. 89

palace of the Savoy into an hospital, and built some religious houses.

H E N R Y V I I I.

HENRY VIII. king of England was born June 28, 1491, and succeeded his father Henry VII. on April 22, 1509. His marriage with Catharine of Arragon, relict of his brother Arthur, was solemnized, the beginning of June, as was the coronation of both king and queen on the 24th of the same month. He joined the emperor Maximilian against Lewis XII. king of France; defeated the French at the battle of the Spurs, in 1513, and took Terouenne and Fournay. At his return to England, he marched against the Scots, and defeated them at Flodden, September 9, after an obstinate and bloody battle, in which James IV. of Scotland was slain. In 1514, Henry VIII. concluded a treaty of peace with Lewis XII. and gave his sister Mary in marriage. He wrote a book against Luther, *Of the Seven Sacraments*, &c. It was presented to pope Leo. X. in full consistory, who, for this service done the church, bestowed on Henry and his successors the title of *Defender of the Faith*. This title being afterwards confirmed by parliament, the kings of England have borne it ever since.

A war breaking out between the emperor Charles V. and the French king Francis I. Henry at first took the part of the emperor, but afterwards, at the solicitation of cardinal Wolsey, contracted a strict friendship with

Francis, and in 1528 laboured to procure the deliverance of pope Clement VII. By the assistance of Wolsey, he, in 1533, divorced Catharine of Arragon, and married Anne Boleyn, on which he was excommunicated by the pope. Henry, enraged at this excommunication, abolished the papal authority in England; refused to pay to the see of Rome his annual tribute; ordered the dissolution of monasteries; obliged the clergy to acknowledge him head of the church, and those who refused were either banished or put to death: among these last were, the learned Sir Thomas Moore, lord chancellor of England, and Fisher, bishop of Rochester. The reformation thus begun in this kingdom, was compleated under the reign of Elizabeth. Some time after, being charmed with the beauty of Jane Seymour, he caused Anne Boleyn to be beheaded: but Jane dying in childbed of prince Edward, he married Anne of Cleves, whom he afterwards divorced. He then married Catharine Howard, the duke of Norfolk's daughter, whom he caused to be beheaded, under pretence that he had not found her a virgin; but his real motive was that of having conceived a violent passion for Catharine Parr, a young widow of great beauty. A war breaking out between him and the Scots, who were assisted by the French, Henry, in 1545, took Bologne from the latter, and burnt Leith and Edinburgh. He founded six new bishoprics, viz. Westminster, Oxford, Peterborough, Bristol, Chester, and Gloucester;

ter ; all which, except Westminster, are still episcopal sees. He united Wales to England, and died January 29, 1547, aged 56, after a reign of thirty-eight years, and was interred at Windsor, with idle processions, and childish pageantry, which in those days passed real taste and magnificence.

Henry VIII. before he became corpulent, was a prince of a goodly personage, and commanding aspect, rather imperious than dignified. He excelled in all the exercises of youth, and possessed a good understanding, which was not much improved by the nature of his education. In the first year of his reign, his pride and vanity seemed to domineer over all his other passions; though from the beginning he was impetuous, headstrong, impatient of contradiction and advice. He was rash, arrogant, prodigal, vain-glorious, pedantic, and superstitious. He delighted in pomp and pageantry, the baubles of a weak mind. His passions, soothed by adulation, rejected all restraint: and, as he was an utter stranger to the finer feelings of the soul, he gratified them at the expence of justice and humanity, without remorse or compunction. From the abject compliance of his subjects, he acquired the most despotic authority over them; and became rapacious, arbitrary, froward, fretful, and so cruel, that he seemed to delight in their blood.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1509. Gardening was this year introduced
into

into England from the Netherlands, from whence vegetables were before imported.

1512. Sir Edward Howard was appointed the first lord high admiral.

1512. A royal navy-office was established.

1516. There was so great a frost in England, that carts passed over the Thames on the ice.

1517. The sweating-sickness raged this year, usually carrying off the patient in three hours.

1517. The reformation in religion was begun by Martin Luther.

1518. New Spain discovered by Fernandez Cortez.

1521. Muskets were first invented this year.

1521. There was so great a dearth in England, that wheat was sold at 20 shillings per quarter.

1521. The sea overflowed the dikes of Holland, drowned 72 villages, and above 100,000 people.

1523. The College of physicians in London was instituted.

1525. There was so severe a frost, after great winds and rains, that many lost the use of their limbs, and some perished with cold.

1525. Whitehall built by cardinal Wolsey.

1529. The name of Protestants began.

1530. St. James's palace built.

1530. Secretary of state's office instituted.

1535. Brass cannon first cast in England.

1537. The bible being translated, and printed in English, was this year ordered to be set up in churches.

1537.

EDWARD VI. 93

1537. Religious houses were dissolved.

1538. Leaden pipes, for the conveyance of water, invented.

1542. A great mortality, and so great a drought, that small rivers were dried up; the Thames was so shallow, that the salt water flowed above London bridge.

1543. Mortars and cannons were cast in iron, the first that were ever made in England.

EDWARD VI.

EDWARD VI. king of England, and the only son of Henry VIII. by Jane Seymour, was born October 12, 1537, and ascended the throne at nine years of age, at which time he was well skilled in the Latin and French tongues, and had obtained some knowledge of the Greek, Italian, and Spanish. His person was very beautiful; he had great sweetness of disposition, and was remarkable for his piety and humanity. He was proclaimed January 31, 1547, and crowned February 20. He was committed to the care of sixteen persons, whom Henry had nominated regents of the kingdom, the principal of whom was the earl of Hertford, the king's uncle by the mother's side, who was soon after created duke of Somerset. The young queen of Scotland was demanded in marriage for king Edward, but the same proposal being made by France, in behalf of the dauphin, she was sent into that kingdom; on which the duke of Somerset invaded Scotland,

land, and routed the Scots army at Mussleburg. The great power of the duke of Somerset raised him many enemies, the chief of whom was his brother, Thomas lord Seymour; and articles of accusation being exhibited against him, he was attainted in parliament, condemned, and beheaded, without being brought to an open trial. However, the duke of Somerset himself was some time after impeached, and charged with a design to seize the king, and to imprison the earl of Warwick: for this he was condemned, and the young king being in a manner forced to sign the sentence, he was executed on the 22d of January, 1551. The earl of Warwick, now duke of Northumberland, succeeded to the duke of Somerset's power, and at length, on the king's being taken ill of the measles, married lord Guilford Dudley his fourth son, to the lady Jane Grey, eldest daughter to the duke of Suffolk, and persuaded Edward to settle the crown on her, his sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, having been both declared illegitimate during the life of their father; and the prince, hoping to save the reformation from impending destruction, appointed her his successor, and soon after died of a consumption, July 6, 1553, in the 16th year of his age, having reigned six years, five months, and nine days. He continued firmly attached to those principles of the reformation, which he had imbibed while young, and which made a great progress in his reign. He confirmed his father's

ther's grant of Christ's and St. Bartholomew's hospitals, and founded Bridewell and St. Thomas's hospitals. He also founded several schools, which were mostly endowed out of the church-lands.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1548 There was a great plague in London.

1549. Anabaptists came into England.

1549 Horse guards instituted.

1551 A sweating sickness raged throughout England.

1551 There happened an earthquake in Surrey.

1552. Crowns and half-crowns were first coined.

1553. This was such a plentiful year, that a barrel of beer, with the cock, were sold for sixpence, and four great loaves for one penny.

Edward kept a Journal, which is preserved in the British Museum, in which he regularly entered all the important transactions of his reign.

M A R Y.

MARY, queen of England, daughter of Henry VIII. and Catharine of Arragon, was born the 18th of February, 1515. On her father's marrying Anne Boleyn, she was declared illegitimate. After the death of Edward VI. in 1553, lady Jane Grey was proclaimed queen of England; but Mary promising

promising that no change should be made in religion, obtained the crown, and some time after, lady Jane, with the lord Dudley, and other persons of quality, were beheaded. Soon after Mary's accession to the throne, she married Philip II. afterwards king of Spain, son of the emperor Charles V. who was then living; and, in violation of the most sacred promises, began a dreadful persecution of the Protestants, which was carried on by Bonner, bishop of London, and Gardiner, bishop of Winchester. Great numbers of persons suffered martyrdom at the stake, among which were, Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer, Hooper, and Ferrar; and all the prisons in the kingdom were crowded with these pious sufferers, who chose to submit to persecution, rather than violate their consciences. Even the princess Elizabeth was closely watched, and obliged to conceal her religious sentiments.

Amidst these dreadful proceedings, Mary was far from being happy; a continual disagreement with her husband, who was younger than she, and of whom she was passionately fond, with the loss of Calais, which was taken by the French, threw her into a complication of distempers, of which she died, without issue, the 17th of November, 1558, in the 43d year of her age, after a bloody reign of five years, four months, and eleven days.

In the four years in which the persecution lasted, near 300 persons were put to death;
viz.

viz. one archbishop, four bishops, 21 divines, eight gentlemen, 84 artificers, 100 husbandmen, servants, and labourers, twenty-six wives, twenty widows, nine virgins, two boys, and two infants; besides which, several died in prison, and many were whipped, or otherwise cruelly treated.

The characteristics of Mary were, bigotry and revenge; added to this, she was proud, imperious, froward, avaritious, and wholly destitute of every agreeable qualification. She was buried at Westminster, in the chapel of her grandfather, Henry VII.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1555. Coaches first used in England.

1558. July. Two little towns near Nottingham were beat down by thunder, and hailstones fell which were 15 inches in circumference.

ELIZABETH.

ELIZABETH, daughter of Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn, was born September 8, 1533, and ascended the throne, November 17, 1558. This princess was crowned with great solemnity, on the 15th of January, 1559.

As there were many troubles then in foreign states, chiefly on account of religion, she assisted the Protestants in Scotland, France, and the Low Countries, against their respective sovereigns, or the governing party,

promising that no change should be made in religion, obtained the crown, and some time after, lady Jane, with the lord Dudley, and other persons of quality, were beheaded. Soon after Mary's accession to the throne, she married Philip II. afterwards king of Spain, son of the emperor Charles V. who was then living; and, in violation of the most sacred promises, began a dreadful persecution of the Protestants, which was carried on by Bonner, bishop of London, and Gardiner, bishop of Winchester. Great numbers of persons suffered martyrdom at the stake, among which were, Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer, Hooper, and Ferrar; and all the prisons in the kingdom were crowded with these pious sufferers, who chose to submit to persecution, rather than violate their consciences. Even the princess Elizabeth was closely watched, and obliged to conceal her religious sentiments.

Amidst these dreadful proceedings, Mary was far from being happy; a continual disagreement with her husband, who was younger than she, and of whom she was passionately fond, with the loss of Calais, which was taken by the French, threw her into a complication of distempers, of which she died, without issue, the 17th of November, 1558, in the 43d year of her age, after a bloody reign of five years, four months, and eleven days.

In the four years in which the persecution lasted, near 300 persons were put to death;

viz.

viz. one archbishop, four bishops, 21 divines, eight gentlemen, 84 artificers, 100 husbandmen, servants, and labourers, twenty-six wives, twenty widows, nine virgins, two boys, and two infants; besides which, several died in prison, and many were whipped, or otherwise cruelly treated.

The characteristics of Mary were, bigotry and revenge; added to this, she was proud, imperious, froward, avaritious, and wholly destitute of every agreeable qualification. She was buried at Westminster, in the chapel of her grandfather, Henry VII.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1555. Coaches first used in England.

1558. July. Two little towns near Nottingham were beat down by thunder, and hailstones fell which were 15 inches in circumference.

ELIZABETH.

ELIZABETH, daughter of Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn, was born September 8, 1533, and ascended the throne, November 17, 1558. This princess was crowned with great solemnity, on the 15th of January, 1559.

As there were many troubles then in foreign states, chiefly on account of religion, she assisted the Protestants in Scotland, France, and the Low Countries, against their respective sovereigns, or the governing party,

by whom they were cruelly oppressed and persecuted. The queen of Scots, and the dauphin her husband, had, by order of Henry II of France, taken the arms of England, with the titles of sovereigns of that kingdom: this made Elizabeth consider Mary as a dangerous rival, whereupon, in 1560, she entered into a treaty with the Scotch male-contents, in pursuance of which, she sent an army into Scotland, to break the measures of her enemies, which had the desired success. Some time after, she assisted the Huguenots in France. By these means Elizabeth kept both France and Scotland so employed, that they could find no opportunity to put their schemes in execution of dethroning her. She always kept a good fleet in readiness against any invasion, and secured more and more the affections of her subjects, which she looked upon as her only support. The queen of Scots, being defeated in 1568 by the forces raised by the male-contents in that kingdom, was obliged to fly into England, where the queen kept her prisoner many years.

In 1569, a rebellion broke out in the North, under the earls of Westmoreland and Northumberland, and Dacres, a northern gentleman, who intended to have set Mary queen of Scots on the throne, and to have restored the popish religion. This rebellion queen Elizabeth suppressed, and the earl of Northumberland was beheaded, as was also the duke of Norfolk in 1572, who had been released out of the Tower, and engaged

engaged again in a conspiracy against the queen.

The year 1571 passed chiefly in a negotiation for a marriage between queen Elizabeth and the duke of Anjou, second son to Catharine de Medicis, and brother to Charles IX. of France. Both Charles and Elizabeth found their account in this negotiation, though neither of them intended it should take effect. Charles's design was, to amuse the Protestants, particularly the Huguenots, with whom he had made a perfidious peace, till he had drawn them into the snare, in order to destroy them by treachery, when he found it difficult to do it by open force. Queen Elizabeth entered into the negotiation of the match to please her ministers, who were continually pressing her to marry, in order to cut off all hopes from the queen of Scots, and to dishearten her enemies. However, a defensive alliance was concluded between the two crowns. Charles died, and was succeeded by the duke of Anjou, by the name of Henry III. with whom queen Elizabeth renewed the league between the two crowns, but under-hand supplied the prince of Condé with money for the Huguenots.

Some time after, another negotiation was carried on for a marriage between her and the duke of Alençon, now duke of Anjou, Henry's brother, even to the signing of her marriage articles, and the duke came over in person, but it was all broke off on a sudden.

In 1577, she assisted the people of the Low Countries, who were grievously oppressed by the duke of Alva, the king of Spain's general, and who was endeavouring to extirpate the Protestants; she lent them 100,000*l.* sterling to enable them to carry on the war. The next year several companies of volunteers were formed in England, who went over to serve the States, with the queen's approbation. Some years after, she sent a good body of forces, under the earl of Leicester, but he not being agreeable to the States, was recalled, and lord Willoughby was appointed general of the English forces in his room: this war at last concluded in the total revolt of seven of these provinces from the dominion of Spain, which now make the most considerable republic in the world. The pope excommunicated the queen; and the king of Spain, and the duke of Guise were in a league with the pope to invade England, dethrone Elizabeth, and set up the queen of Scots in her room. In the mean time, several plots were set on foot by the popish emissaries to take away her life, for which several priests, Jesuits, and others, were executed. In 1585, the queen sent Sir Francis Drake to America, who took several places in the Spanish West Indies. In 1586, she made an alliance with the king of Scotland for their mutual defence, and the security of the Protestant religion. This year died the learned and ingenious Sir Philip Sidney,
of

of a wound he received in a battle in the Low Countries.

Babington's conspiracy, in which were engaged several popish priests from the seminaries abroad, was discovered; and they were, to the number of fourteen, arraigned, condemned, and executed. It was laid for an invasion, to kill Elizabeth, free the queen of Scots, and set her on the throne. As the queen of Scots appeared, by letters and otherwise, to have been concerned in this conspiracy, it was resolved now to prosecute her on an act of parliament made the preceding year, whereby the person for whom, or by whom, any thing should be attempted against the queen, was liable to death. Commissioners were accordingly sent to try her at Fotheringay castle, in Northamptonshire, (where she was then in custody) who passed sentence upon her, on October 25. Four days after, it was approved and confirmed by parliament; on December 6, it was proclaimed through the whole kingdom; and on February 8th following, the sentence was executed upon her in the hall of the castle, by severing her head from her body, which she suffered with great calmness and resolution.

In 1588, the king of Spain, encouraged by pope Sixtus V. sent a great fleet, to which they had given the title of the Invincible Armada, to invade England. It consisted of 130 great ships, 20 caravels, and 10 falves, having above 20,000 soldiers on board, with

seamen, ammunition, and provision in proportion. To oppose which, 20,000 men were dispersed along the southern coasts; an army of 22,000 foot, and 1000 horse, was encamped at Tilbury, where the queen reviewed them, and made a very engaging speech to them. There was another army of 34,000 foot, and 2000 horse, to guard the queen's person. She fitted out a considerable fleet, under the command of lord Howard, as admiral, Drake, Hawkins, and Forbisher, vice-admirals; and sent Seymour, with forty English and Dutch ships, to the coast of Flanders, to hinder the prince of Parma from joining the Spanish fleet.

On the 19th of July, the Spanish fleet, commanded by the duke of Medina Sidonia, entered the channel, when the English fleet, kept close to them, and soon took some of their ships. On July 24th there was a brisk engagement. On the 27th the Spanish fleet came to an anchor off Calais, expecting in vain the prince of Parma to put to sea with his army, and make a descent on England, as it had been agreed. The English fleet, now consisting of 140 ships, followed them; and the English admiral in the night, sent eight fire-ships among them, which so terrified them, that they cut their cables, and put to sea in the utmost confusion; the English admiral took the Galeas, and the commander of it was slain. In short, the whole fleet was dispersed, and the Spaniards resolved to make the best of their way home. Of this
prodigious

prodigious armament, only fifty-three ships returned to Spain, and those in a shattered condition. Queen Elizabeth went in state to St. Paul's, to return Almighty God thanks for this great victory.

In 1594, Roderic Lopez, a Jew, who was the queen's physician, two portuguese, and Patrick Cullen, an Irishman, were bribed by the Spanish govenors of the Netherlands to take her off by poison; but the plot being discovered, the conspirators were seized and executed; as were Edmund York and Richard Williams, the next year, for undertaking to commit the same crime, on the promise of 40,000 crowns from the said Spanish governors.

In 1596, the queen sent a fleet and army under Howard, the earl of Essex, and Sir Walter Raleigh, to the coasts of Spain, which plundered Cadiz, burnt the merchant ships at Port Real, took and destroyed thirteen Spanish men of War, and did other considerable damage. In 1598, Henry IV. of France having made a separate peace with the king of Spain, queen Elizabeth and the States entered into a new treaty to carry on the war against that monarch by themselves. On the 25th of February, 1601, Robert Devereux, earl of Essex, was beheaded.

Queen Elizabeth died on March 24, 1603, in the 70th year of her age, and the 45th of her reign, after having named the Scottish monarch for her successor. She was interred with great magnificence in the chapel of Henry VII. at Westminster. The

The papists represent Elizabeth as a monster of cruelty, avarice, and lasciviousness; which is not to be wondered at, considering her severity to them. It is, indeed, difficult to excuse her beheading Mary queen of Scots, and the severity she sometimes made use of, both against the papists and the protestant dissenters. She however, understood the art of reigning in an eminent degree; and her reign was the school of able ministers, great statesmen, and distinguished warriors. She understood the Greek, Latin, French, Spanish, and Dutch languages; had a deep and penetrating, a noble and elevated mind. Her conversation was sprightly and agreeable, her judgment solid, her apprehension acute, her application indefatigable, and her courage invincible. Yet her glorious reign, on which Providence for a long time poured innumerable blessings, ended in a most dismal melancholy, which, some are of opinion, was occasioned by the death of the earl of Essex. This queen makes a considerable figure among the learned ladies. Besides variety of other things, she wrote a Comment on Plato, and translated into Latin two of the operations of Isocrates, and a play of Euripides, &c.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1560. June 15. The spire of St. Paul's, in London, was burnt down by lightning.

1563. Knives first made in England.

1565.

1565. July 16. A violent storm of thunder and hail happened, which destroyed 500 acres of corn at Chelmsford.

1566. June 7. The foundation of the Royal Exchange in London was laid by Sir Thomas Gresham.

1568. A new translation of the bible was published.

1571. Feb. 17. A great earthquake in Herefordshire, when Marcle hill was removed from the place where it stood, and continued in motion two days ; it carried along the trees, hedges, sheep, &c. and overturned Kyneton chapel.

1574. There was a great dearth in England.

1583. Jan. 13. An earthquake in Dorsetshire, which removed a considerable piece of ground.

1588. The art of making paper was introduced into England this year.

1590. Telescopes, and the art of weaving stockings, were invented this year.

1592. Sept. The Thames was almost dry.

1593. This year above 28,000 people died of the plague in London.

1596. There was an earthquake in Kent.

1597. Watches first brought into England from Germany.

1597. A great plague in London and its suburbs, which swept off 17,890 persons.

J A M E S I.

JAMES VI. of Scotland, and First of England, son of Henry Stuart, and Mary queen of Scotland, was born June 19, 1566, and was raised to the English throne in 1603, after the death of queen Elizabeth, who had nominated him for her successor, as being her nearest relation; for he was descended from the eldest son of king Henry VII. He united Scotland to England, and took the title of King of Great Britain. In 1604 he ordered all popish priests to leave England, on pain of death.

In 1605, a plot was discovered of a design to blow up the parliament house, 36 barrels of gun-powder being put in a cellar under the lords house, which had been hired for that purpose, and covered over with coals, billets, and faggots. Guy Faux, who was to have set fire to the train, was discovered in a cloak and boots, with a dark lanthorn, tinder-box and matches in his pocket. Himself and his accomplices were executed in January following; as were, not long after, Oldcorn and Garnet, two Jesuits, for concealing and abetting the plot.

In 1606, king James caused the oath of allegiance to be drawn up; and, in 1621, summoned a parliament, in which were formed the two parties, called Whigs and Tories. He suffered the Dutch to take Amboyna, and to massacre the English inhabitants, without shewing his resentment. He

not

not only suffered the nation to fall into contempt, but put to death the brave Sir Walter Raleigh, for his successful expeditions against the Spaniards. He was educated by the famous Buchanan, and prided himself for his skill in Latin and school divinity; though the works he published prove that he was but an indifferent writer. These works principally consist of several tracts, which are printed in one volume in folio, and contain, An attempt to prove that monarchs have a right to be absolute, and independent on their subjects; on the heinous sin of taking tobacco; on witchcraft, &c. Mr. Walpole observes, that "There is not the least suspicion that the folio, under the name of James I. is not of his own composition; for though Roger Ascham," says he, "may have corrected or assisted periods of his illustrious pupil, no body can imagine that Buchanan dictated a word of the *Demonologia*, or of the polite treatise, intitled, *A Counterblast to Tobacco*. Quotations, puns, scripture, witticisms, superstition, oaths, vanity, prerogative, and pedantry, the ingredients of all his sacred majesty's performances, were the pure produce of his own capacity, and deserving all the incense offered to such immense erudition by the divines of his age, and the flatterers of his court." He died at Theobald's, March 27, 1625, aged 55, after having reigned 22 years in England, and was succeeded by his son Charles I.

James

James I. was in his stature of the middle size, inclining to corpulency; his forehead was high, his beard scanty, and his aspect mean. His address was awkward, and his appearance slovenly. There was nothing dignified either in the composition of his mind or person. In the course of his reign he exhibited repeated instances of his ridiculous vanity, prejudices, profusion, folly, and littleness of soul. All that we can add in his favour is, that he was averse to cruelty and injustice; very little addicted to excess, temperate in his meals, kind to his servants, and even desirous of acquiring the love of his subjects, by granting that as a favour which they claimed as a privilege. His reign, tho' ignoble to himself, was happy to his people, who were enriched by commerce, which no war interrupted.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1603. 35,244 persons died of the plague in London.

1603. The office of master of the ceremonies instituted.

1604, and 1605. The plague destroyed 68,596 persons in London.

1609. A frost happened which lasted four months; the Thames was so frozen, that heavy carriages passed over it.

1611. Baronets first created in England.

1611. The present translation of the bible finished.

1619.

1619. The circulation of the blood was confirmed this year by Dr. Harvey.

1620 Copper money was this year first used in England.

1621. The broad silk manufacture from raw silk introduced into England.

In the 14th year of this reign, Sir Hugh Middleton, a private citizen of London, supplied part of the city with excellent water, conveyed in an aqueduct from Ware in Hertfordshire, now known by the name of the New River.

CHARLES I.

CHARLES I. king of Great Britain, was born at Dumfermling, in Scotland, November 19, 1600. He succeeded his father, James I. in 1625, and the very same year married Henrietta of France, the daughter of Henry IV. Two years after he sent assistance to the French Calvinists, to prevent the taking of Rochelle; but the English being defeated, and Rochelle taken, a treaty of peace was concluded between the two crowns. There was nothing but continual struggles between the king, who wanted to assume to himself the absolute power of disposing of his subjects property, and leaving their grievances unredressed, and the parliament, who were willing to grant the king the necessary supplies, provided their grievances were redressed, and the rightful privileges of the subjects secured; which at last

K

produced

produced a civil war. Aug. 22, 1642, the king, in a solemn manner, set up his standard at Nottingham. On June 1, 1645, was fought the famous battle of Naseby, which decided the quarrel between the king and the parliament, wherein the parliament's forces gained a compleat victory. Upon the approach of lord Fairfax, to lay siege to Oxford, his majesty made his escape from thence, and threw himself into the hands of the Scots army. Oxford surrendered, June 22, 1646, and the few remaining garrisons soon after. The parliament then consulted how to get the king out of the hands of the Scots, and to send them back into their own country. After several debates about the disposal of his person, the Scots, having received 200,000*l*. August 8, 1646, delivered him up to the commissioners of the parliament of England, who were sent down to Newcastle to receive him. The same day their army began to march for Scotland, and the king was conducted to Holmby-house in Northamptonshire. He was afterwards removed to Hampton court, from whence he made his escape, and fled to the Isle of Wight. He had not been there long, when a party of Cromwell's soldiers seized him, and conveyed him first to Hurst castle, from thence to Windsor, and at last to St. James's palace. The next day he was brought to his trial, and sentence of death was passed upon him; pursuant to which, he was beheaded before the Banqueting-house at Whitehall, on the 30th of

of January, 1648, in the 49th year of his age, and the 24th of his reign. His body was carried to Windsor, and privately interred in St. George's chapel.

Such was the unworthy and unexampled end of Charles I. king of England. He was a prince of a middling stature, robust, and well proportioned. His hair was of a dark colour, his forehead high, his complexion pale, his visage long, and his aspect melancholy. His perception was clear and acute, his judgment solid and decisive. In his private morals he was altogether unblemished and exemplary. He was merciful, modest, chaste, temperate, religious, personally brave; and we may join the noble historian in saying, "He was the worthiest gentleman, the best master, the best friend, the best husband, the best father, and the best Christian of the age in which he lived." He suffered himself to be guided by counsellors who were not only inferior to himself in knowledge and judgment, but generally proud, partial, and inflexible: and he paid too much deference to the advice and desires of his consort, who was superstitiously attached to the errors of popery.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1625. A great plague in London, which swept away 35,417 persons.

1630 May 9 A bright star appeared, and shone all the day.

1635. Thomas Parr was presented to the
K 2 king,

112 THE COMMONWEALTH.

king, being 152 years of age, and in perfect health. He died at London, November 15. He had lived in ten reigns.

1636. There was a plague in London.

1643. Excise on beer, ale, &c. first imposed by parliament.

THE COMMONWEALTH.

OLIVER CROMWELL was the son of a private gentleman of Huntingdon, and was born the 24th of April, 1599. Being the son of a second brother, he inherited a very small paternal fortune. From accident, or intrigue, he was chosen member for Cambridge in the long parliament; but he seemed at first to possess no talents for oratory, his person being ungraceful, his dress slovenly, his elocution homely, tedious, obscure, and embarrassed. He made up, however, by zeal and perseverance what he wanted in natural powers; and being endowed with unshaken intrepidity, and much dissimulation, he rose, through the gradations of preferment, to the post of lieutenant-general under Fairfax, but, in reality, possessing the supreme command of the whole army. After several victories, he gained the battle of Naseby; and this, with other successes, soon put an end to the war.

In 1649, Cromwell was sent general into Ireland, when in about nine months he subdued almost that whole kingdom, and leaving his son-in-law, Ireton, to complete the conquest,

conquest, returned to England. On June 26, 1650, he was appointed general and commander in chief of all the forces of the commonwealth, and set out on his march against the Scots, who had espoused the royal cause, and placed young Charles, the son of their late monarch, on the throne. On Sept. 3, 1651, he totally defeated the royalists at Worcester, when the king himself was obliged to fly. After having undergone an amazing variety of dangers and distresses, he landed safely at Fescamp, in Normandy; no less than forty persons having at different times been privy to his escape. In the mean time, Cromwell, crowned with success, returned to London, where he was met by the speaker of the house, accompanied by the mayor and magistrates of London, in their formalities. He began now to complain of the long parliament, which, on the 20th of April, 1653, he dissolved by force; and, two days after, published a declaration of his reasons, signed by himself and his council of officers. On December 16, Cromwell was invested with the title of Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland. He now applied himself to the management of the several parties; supplied the benches of the courts of Westminster with the ablest lawyers, but acted in the most arbitrary and oppressive manner, where his own interest was concerned. He gave the command of all the forces in Scotland to general Monk, and sent his own

son, Henry, to govern Ireland. In 1655, he sent a powerful fleet, under the command of admiral Penn, and 5000 land forces, commanded by general Venables, to attack the island of Hispaniola. Failing, however, in this, and being driven off the place by the Spaniards, they steered to Jamaica, which was surrendered to them without a blow. In the mean time admiral Blake performed great actions in the Mediterranean; so that the Protector's reputation was very high abroad.

In 1657, the parliament agreed to offer Cromwell the title of King. Finding it disagreeable to his best friends, he told them, he could not, with a good conscience, accept the regal title; but his highness resolved upon a new inauguration, which was accordingly performed in Westminster-hall, June 26, with all the splendor of a coronation. The next year Dunkirk surrendered to the French, and was delivered into the hands of the English.

His favourite daughter Mrs. Claypole, died on August 6, 1658, of a languishing disorder, during which she, in divers conferences, awakened the horrors of his guilty conscience. He was, from that time, wholly altered, grew daily more reserved and suspicious; not indeed without reason, for he found a general discontent prevail through the nation. He wore armour under his cloaths, and always kept a pistol in his pocket. He always travelled with hurry, and attended by a numerous guard. He never returned

CHARLES II. 115

returned from any place by the road he went ; and seldom slept above three nights together in the same chamber. A tertian ague kindly came at last to deliver him from this life of horror and anxiety. He died on the 3d of September, the anniversary of the victories he had obtained at Dunbar, and Worcester ; and his death was rendered remarkable by one of the most violent tempests which had blown in the memory of man. He was then fifty nine years old, and had usurped the government nine years.

Richard, his son, was the next day proclaimed Lord Protector ; who wanted resolution to defend the title that had been conferred upon him : he soon signed his own abdication in form, and retired to live at first on the continent, and afterwards on his paternal fortune at home. He died at Cheshunt in Hertfordshire, in the year 1712.

CHARLES II.

CHARLES II. was born on the 29th of May, 1630. After an exile of twelve years, in France and Holland, he was restored by general Monk, who had rendered himself absolute master of the parliament. On May 29, 1660, he made his triumphal entry into London ; and was crowned the following year. In 1662, the marriage between the king, and Catharine, infanta of Portugal, was solemnized. In 1665, war was declared against the Dutch, and on the 3d of June a great victory was obtained over them at sea.

sea. The next year the French king declared war against England. The English fleet, under the command of prince Rupert and the duke of Albemarle, put to sea about the middle of May; and there soon was a most bloody fight with admiral Ruyter, in which the English were worsted. There was another furious engagement in July, when the English gained a complete victory, destroying above twenty Dutch men of war, and driving the rest into their harbours. In this action the Dutch lost four of their admirals, besides 4000 other officers and seamen; and the loss on the side of the English is said to be inconsiderable. In August, Sir Robert Holmes burnt two men of war, and 150 sail of merchant ships, belonging to the Dutch.

On September 3, a terrible fire broke out in London, which continuing three days, laid the greatest part of the city in ashes. It destroyed 600 streets, including 89 churches, many hospitals and public edifices, and 13,200 dwelling houses. The ruins, comprehending 435 acres of ground, extended from the Tower, along the river, to the Temple church; and north-easterly, along the city walls, as far as Holborn bridge.

On June 11, 1667, the Dutch sailed up the river Medway, as far as Chatham, made themselves masters of Sheerness, and burnt several men of war, together with a magazine full of stores. But king Charles, notwithstanding this piece of treachery, concluded the treaty at Breda, by which the colony of
New

New York in North America was ceded by the Dutch to the English, and has continued a most valuable acquisition to the present time. This peace was, however, but of short continuance ; for, in the year 1672, king Charles joined with the French, who attacked the Dutch by land, while the English engaged their fleets at sea ; but a peace was concluded two years after. The year 1684 was almost wholly taken up with prosecutions of persons for speaking ill of the king, the duke of York, and the government ; some were fined in large sums, and others pilloried. In 1685 the king was seized with a sudden fit, which resembled an apoplexy ; and though he was recovered by bleeding, yet he languished only for a few days, and expired on the 6th of February, in the 55th year of his age, after a reign of near twenty-five years. He was buried in Henry the Seventh's chapel, in Westminster-abbey. He had no children by his queen, but several by his mistresses.

Charles II. was in his person tall and swarthy, and his countenance marked with strong, harsh lineaments. His penetration was keen, his judgment clear, his understanding extensive, his conversation lively and entertaining, and he possessed the talent of wit and ridicule. He was easy of access, polite, and affable. Had he been limited to a private station, he would have passed for the most agreeable and best-natured man of the age in which he lived. His greatest enemies allow him to have been a civil husband, an obliging

obliging lover, an affectionate father, and an indulgent master: even as a prince, he manifested an aversion to cruelty and injustice. Yet these good qualities were more than overbalanced by his weakness and defects. He was a scoffer at religion, and a libertine in his morals; careless, indolent, profuse, abandoned to effeminate pleasure, incapable of any noble enterprise, a stranger to manly friendship and gratitude, deaf to the voice of honour, blind to the allurements of glory, and in a word, wholly destitute of every active virtue.

Trade and manufactures flourished more in this reign than at any other æra of the English monarchy. Industry was crowned with success, and the people in general lived in ease and affluence.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1660. The Royal Society was first erected and established this year.

1662. Feb. 18. A great storm in London.

1665. A most terrible pestilence broke out in London, which swept off 68,596 persons.

1666. Tea first used in England.

1667. The king laid the first stone of the Royal Exchange.

1670. This year died Henry Jenkins, of Yorkshire, aged 170.

1671. May 9. Blood attempted to steal the crown out of the Tower, but was apprehended.

1680. A great comet appeared, and, from its nearness to our earth, alarmed the inhabitants. It continued visible from Nov. 3, to March 9.

1683.

1683. A frost, which continued thirteen weeks.

J A M E S II.

JAMES II. the second son of Charles I. king of Great Britain, and Henrietta, the daughter of Henry IV. king of France, was born at London, the 14th of October, 1633, and had the title of duke of York. After the taking of Oxford, in 1646, the parliament committed him to the care of the earl of Northumberland; but he made his escape, dressed like a girl, and flying into Holland, sought protection from his sister, the princess of Orange. He afterwards went into France, served under the viscount de Turenne, and gave proofs of a courage worthy of his birth. He also distinguished himself, in 1655, in the Spanish army, under Don Juan of Austria. In 1660, he returned to England with his eldest brother, king Charles II. was made lord high admiral of the kingdom, and beat the Dutch fleets in 1665 and in 1672; but, as he openly professed his adherence to the popish religion, and prevailed upon his brother to take several arbitrary and unpopular measures, the parliament attempted to exclude him from the succession: but Charles II. dying on the 6th of February, 1685, the duke of York was proclaimed king the same day, under the title of James II. and a short time after in Scotland, under that of James VII. On his accession, he made a speech to the privy council, promising to preserve the government

vernment both of the church and state ; yet two days after went publickly to mass.

On the 11th of June, the duke of Monmouth, natural son of king Charles II, landed at Lyme, in Dorsetshire, with only eighty three followers, and immediately published a declaration, that his sole motive for taking arms was, to preserve the protestant religion, and to deliver the nation from the usurpation and tyranny of James, duke of York ; and that his mother was actually married to king Charles II. He thus raised an army in the west of England ; but, being defeated and taken prisoner, was beheaded on Tower hill, July 15, 1685, aged 35 years. Those who had espoused his cause were now butchered by military execution, under general Kirk, or barbarously executed, by form of law, under judge Jefferies, who caused about 600 persons to be hanged ; and the steeples, town-gates, and roads, were stuck with the heads and limbs of those who had adhered to the duke.

James II. shewed great zeal for restoring the popish religion in England, and, in 1687, published a proclamation, granting liberty of conscience, by which he gave great pleasure to the dissenters, who had been severely persecuted in the preceding reigns ; but, on its being discovered that this was an artifice intended to favour the popish party, who were soon put into places of honour and profit, they joined with those of the established church in opposing it. The popish priests now appearing

ing publicly in their habits in the streets, and a nuncio arriving from Rome, the whole nation were alarmed, and applied to William-Henry of Nassau, prince of Orange, who had married Mary, king James's eldest daughter, and was himself the son of that king's eldest sister. This prince arrived in England, in 1688, when the dissatisfaction against the king was so great, that a considerable part of his army forsook him, and without venturing an engagement, king James privately retired to France; on which the prince of Orange was crowned king of England, by the name of William III. Thus was formed the famous period in English history called the Revolution.

In 1689, James II. landed with an army in Ireland, in order to render himself master of that kingdom; but having lost the battle of the Boyne, in which king William commanded in person, he was obliged to return to France, where he resided at St. Germain's, and died there, Sept. 16, 1701, aged 68. He was buried in the church of the monastery of the Benedictines, in Paris. James II. wrote Memoirs of his own life and campaigns, to the Restoration; Memoirs of the English affairs, chiefly naval, from the year 1660 to 1673.

James II. was a prince in whom some good qualities were rendered ineffectual, by mistaken notions of the prerogative, excessive bigotry to the religion of Rome, and an inflexible severity of temper. He was brave, ready, resolute, diligent, upright, and sin-

L

cere,

cere, except when warped by religious considerations; yet, even where religion was not concerned, he appears to have been proud, haughty, vindictive, cruel, and unrelenting; and, though he approved himself an obedient and dutiful subject, he certainly became one of the most intolerable sovereigns that ever reigned over a free people.

W I L L I A M III.

WILLIAM III. of Nassau, prince of Orange, stadtholder of the United Provinces, king of England, &c. was the son of William of Nassau, prince of Orange, by Mary, the eldest daughter of Charles I. king of England, and was born at the Hague, the 14th of November, 1650. He was about 22 years of age when, in 1672, he was elected stadtholder, and declared general of the Dutch troops, in order to put a stop to the rapidity of the conquests made by Lewis XIV. In 1673 he took the strong town of Naerden, and obliged the French to quit Utrecht, and several considerable places where they had garrisons. Soon after, he engaged the French at Senef, where he gained great honour by his courage and conduct, and obtained a victory, after a most bloody engagement. On the 17th of October, 1677, he embarked for England, and, the 4th of November, was married to the princess Mary, eldest daughter of the duke of York. On the 29th of the same month he departed from London, with his princess, and landed at Terbeyde. In August,

gust, 1678, he attacked and defeated the duke of Luxemburgh, in his quarters, near the abbey of St Denis. In the heat of the action he advanced so far, that he was in great danger of being killed. On June, 29, 1684, a treaty was signed at the Hague, which put an end to the war.

James, duke of York, having ascended the throne of England, after the death of his brother Charles II. endeavouring to restore the popish religion, and to destroy the civil and religious liberties of the people, they naturally cast their eyes on the prince of Orange, and applied to him for deliverance; on which he landed at Torbay, November 5, 1688, and was joyfully received by almost the whole nation.

James now made his escape to France, and after his departure, the lords and commons agreed, after much dispute, that he had abdicated the throne, upon which the prince of Orange, and the princess Mary, were proclaimed king and queen the 13th of Feb. 1689, and crowned the 11th of April following. An attempt was then made by the opposite party to secure Scotland for James II. but, on the 26th of May, 1689, the two armies meeting at Killycrankie, in the shire of Perth, lieutenant general Mackay, who commanded for king William, obtained a complete victory, after which the whole island of Great Britain submitted to him. In the mean time, Tyrconnel had disarmed great part of the protestants of Ireland, and formed an

army of papists, amounting to 30,000 foot, and 8000 horse, while the protestants in the North took up arms, and seizing on Kilmore, Coleraine, Inniskilling, and Londonderry, declared for king William and queen Mary. Things were in this situation, when James landing at Kinsale, March 12, 1688-9, made his public entry into Dublin; he soon after put himself at the head of 20,000 men, and was twice reinforced by the French, who each time joined him with 5000 men. He took Coleraine and Kilmore, and laid siege to Londonderry; but soon after returned to meet his parliament in Dublin, where he passed an act to attain 2 or 3000 protestant lords, ladies, clergymen, and gentlemen, of high treason. In the mean time the siege of Londonderry was vigorously carried on. The garrison of Inniskilling, at the same time, did wonders; particularly the day before the siege of Derry was raised, they advanced near twenty miles to meet about 6000 Irish, and defeated them, killing near 3000, tho' they themselves were not above 2000, and had not above 20 killed, and 50 wounded. In August, the duke of Schomberg arrived in Ireland with 10,000 men, took Carrickfergus in four days, and performed other acts of bravery and conduct. In June, 1690, king William landed in Ireland with a gallant army, and, on July 1, fought the memorable battle of the Boyne in which, tho' he had the misfortune to lose the brave duke of Schomberg, yet he gained a complete victory

tory over the French and Irish, and obliged king James to retire to Dublin, and make all the haste he could back to France. King William also proceeded to Dublin, and thence to England. The next year the English, under the brave general Ginckle, and other valiant commanders, made themselves masters of Ballimore, with incredible bravery passed the Shannon, amidst the fire of the enemy, and took Athlone; and on July 12 fought the glorious battle of Aghrim, wherein 4000 Irish, and their general, St. Ruth, were slain, and all their tents, arms, &c. taken. After this entire defeat, Galway surrendered, and Limerick capitulated; by which an end was put to the Irish war, and all Ireland was reduced to the obedience of king William and queen Mary. In the mean time, the French king was pushing his conquests in the Netherlands, and other parts, which made it necessary for king William to go over to the famous congress at the Hague, in the beginning of the year 1691, in order to animate the confederate princes and states. The French were so far before hand with the allies, that they took the strong city of Mons this year, and Namur in the year following; after which was fought the famous battle of Steenkirk, wherein, though the French remained masters of the field of battle, yet king William so bravely disputed the victory, that they had scarce any thing else to boast of, the loss being nearly equal on both sides. The king was no sooner gone

abroad in 1691, than the Jacobites resumed their favourite scheme, in concert with France, for restoring the late king James. But the vigilance of queen Mary and the government again disconcerted their measures. In July, 1693, was fought the famous battle of Landen, between the allied army, commanded by king William, and the French, under the duke of Luxemburgh; and though the latter were much superior in number, the former fought with such obstinate bravery, under their prudent and valiant leader, that for some time they manifestly had the advantage; and it was only the superiority in numbers that at last wrested the victory out of their hands: after which, the French made themselves masters of Charleroy. On December 28, 1694, queen Mary died of the small-pox, to the inexpressible grief of the nation. She was king James's eldest daughter, and died in the 33^d year of her age, having reigned near six years jointly with the king her husband. On March 5, she was most solemnly and magnificently interred in the chapel of Henry VII. The year 1695 was glorious to king William and the allies, by the reduction of Namur. Marshal Bouffiers having thrown himself into it, with a strong reinforcement, the garrison then consisted of 15,000 men, and they were furnished with provisions for several months. Yet king William having laid siege to it in the beginning of July, carried it on with such vigour and good conduct, even in the sight of a nu-

merous

merous French army under marshal Villeroy, who had advanced to relieve it, that the town surrendered on August 6, N. S. and the castle in less than a month after. The English fleet under lord Berkley, spread terror this summer along the coasts of France, bombarded St. Maloes, and some other towns: and, in return, Villeroy, by the French king's order, bombarded Brussels. On the 12th of January a double plot was discovered, to assassinate the king, and invade the kingdom. Many of the late king James's emissaries came over from France, and held consultations with papists and Jacobites here, how to murder king William; and after several debates on the time, place, and manner of putting their horrid design in execution, they at last agreed to assassinate his majesty in his coach, on some day in February, 1695 6, in a lane between Brentford and Turnham-green, as he returned from hunting. But happily the whole plot was discovered on the very night before it was to be executed. At the same time, there was to be an invasion from France, for which purpose king James was come to Calais, and the troops, artillery, and stores were immediately ordered to be embarked; but by the news of the assassination-plot having miscarried, and the speedily sending a formidable fleet under admiral Russel, this other part of the design was frustrated, and Calais was, not long after, bombarded by the English. A treaty of peace was at last happily concluded,

ed, and signed at Ryswick by the English, Spanish, French, and Dutch plenipotentiaries, on September 20, 1697; and by the ministers of the emperor, who stood out for some time, on October 20, with as much advantage to the allies as could reasonably be expected. On the 29th of July, 1700, the young duke of Gloucester, the only remaining child of seventeen whom the princess Anne had born, died of a malignant fever, in the 11th year of his age. The king of Spain dying towards the end of this year, the duke of Anjou was declared king of Spain by the French king his grandfather. The French, at the same time, overrunning the Spanish Netherlands, both king William and the States were obliged to own the duke of Anjou's title, in order to gain time. On February 21, 1701, the king, who had been declining in his health for some time, fell from his horse as he was hunting, and dislocated his right collar-bone; which, joined with his former indisposition, held him in a languishing state till the 8th of March, when, with great composedness and resignation, he expired. Thus died the heroic king William III. in the 52d year of his age, after having reigned thirteen years, three weeks, and two days. On the 12th of April following he was interred in Henry the Seventh's chapel, near the remains of his queen. He left no issue.

William III. was in his person of the middle stature, a thin body, and delicate constitution,

tution, subject to an asthma and continual cough from his infancy. He had an aquiline nose, sparkling eyes, a large forehead, and a grave solemn aspect. He was very sparing of speech; his conversation was dry, and his manner disgusting, except in battle, when his deportment was free, spirited, and animating. In courage, fortitude, and equanimity, he rivalled the most eminent warriors of antiquity; and his natural sagacity made amends for the defects of his education, which had not been properly superintended. He was religious, temperate, generally just and sincere, a stranger to violent transports of passion, and might have passed for one of the best princes of the age in which he lived, had he never ascended the throne of Great Britain. But, the distinguishing criterion of his character was ambition; to this he sacrificed the punctilios of honour and decorum, in deposing his father-in-law and uncle; and this he gratified at the expence of the nation that raised him to sovereign authority. He aspired to the honour of acting as umpire in all the contests of Europe; and the second object of his attention was, the prosperity of that country to which he owed his birth and extraction. To sum up his character in a few words; William was a fatalist in religion, indefatigable in war, enterprizing in politics, dead to all the warm and generous emotions of the human heart, a cold relation, an indifferent husband, a disagreeable man, an ungracious prince, and an imperious sovereign.

Remarkable

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1693. Bayonets first used by the French:
 1693. The bank of England was established, and the first public lottery drawn this year.
 1694. Stamp duties instituted.
 1701. Prussia erected into a kingdom.

A N N E.

THIS amiable and illustrious princess was descended from a race of kings the most ancient of any in Europe. She was the second daughter of James, duke of York, afterwards king James II. by Mrs. Anne Hyde, eldest daughter of Edward earl of Clarendon. The duke was privately married to this lady during his first exile, in 1659. In 1660 she was, by an order of council, declared duchess of York, and to have the precedency of the princess of Orange, and the queen of Bohemia. The duchess died at the palace of St. James's, March 31. 1671: she had issue by the duke four sons and four daughters; Charles, born October 22, 1660; Mary, born April 30, 1662; James, born July 12, 1663; Anne, born February 6, 1664; Charles, born July 4, 1665; Edgar, born September 14, 1667; Henrietta, born January 13, 1669; and Catharine, born February 9, 1670; of whom Charles, James, Charles, and Henrietta, died in her

her life-time, and Edgar and Catharine did not survive her a year ; but Mary and Anne lived to be queens of England. Princess Mary was about nine years old, and princess Anne about seven, at the death of their mother.

On the death of king William III. who died on Sunday, March 8, 1702 about eight in the morning, princess Anne was, about three the same afternoon, proclaimed queen of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, in the cities of London and Westminster, and was crowned on the 23d of April following. During her reign the honour of the British arms was carried to an amazing height, particularly by the duke of Marlborough, who in her reign humbled the pride of France, by a number of the most glorious victories. The nation being at the same time at war with Spain, the duke of Ormond and Sir George Rooke took Vigo, when eleven French men of war were burnt, and ten taken ; six gallions were sunk, and eleven taken. On the 24th of July, 1704, Sir George Rooke took Gibraltar, after a siege of two days. The next year the earl of Peterborough took the city of Barcelona, and several other places in Spain ; and, in 1706, the earl of Galway, at the head of 20,000 men, took Alcantara, a city of Portugal. In 1708, major general Stanhope landed with 3000 men on the island of Minorca, and attacked fort St. Philip, where the garrison, which consisted of 1000 Spaniards,

niards, and 600 French, surrendered in three days; the men were made prisoners of war, and the whole island conquered in three weeks.

The wars were concluded by the treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, by which Spain and Spanish America were confirmed to king Philip; but the Netherlands, and the Spanish dominions in Italy, were separated from that monarchy. Their Italian dominions consisted of the kingdoms of Naples, Sicily, Sardinia, and the duchy of Milan; of which, Naples Sardinia, and Milan, were bestowed on the emperor; and Sicily, with the title of king, given to the duke of Savoy. The Dutch had a barrier given them against France in the Netherlands; while Harley and Bolingbroke, the new ministry, in compliance to France, only insisted on having Dunkirk demolished, and the possession of Gibraltar, Minorca, and Acadia, or Nova Scotia, secured to the crown of England, though much better terms had before been offered by the French. Queen Anne procured a law for the building of fifty new churches within the bills of mortality, with an augmentation of the livings of the poor clergy: and in 1706 the union of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland took place. The queen died at Kensington, on the 1st of August, 1714, in the morning, in the 56th year of her age, and the 13th of her reign. She had been married to his royal highness prince George of Denmark,
July

July 28, 1683, by whom she had several children, who died young.

Ann Stuart, queen of Great Britain, was in her person of the middle size, majestic, and well proportioned. Her hair was of a dark brown colour, her complexion ruddy, her features very regular, and her countenance round and handsome. Her voice was clear and melodious, and her presence engaging. She was certainly deficient in that vigour of mind by which a prince ought to preserve his independence, and avoid the snares and fetters of sycophants and favourites: but, whatever her weakness in this particular might have been, the virtues of her heart were never called in question. She was a pattern of conjugal affection and fidelity, a tender mother, a warm friend, an indulgent mistress, a munificent patron, a mild and merciful princess, during whose reign no subject's blood was shed for treason. In a word, if she was not the greatest, she was certainly one of the best and most unblemished sovereigns that ever sat upon the throne of England.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1703. Nov. 3. The most terrible storm that had ever been known in England.

1707. Oct. 24. The first British parliament met.

1710. The cathedral church of St. Paul, London, rebuilt.

M

GEORGE

GEORGE I.

GEORGE I. was created duke of Cambridge, October 5, 1706, and, on the death of queen Anne, succeeded to the crown of Great Britain. He was the eldest son of Ernestus Augustus, duke, afterwards elector, of Brunswic Lunenburgh (or Hannover) by the princess Sophia, daughter of Frederic, elector palatine, and king of Bohemia, and of Elizabeth, eldest daughter of James I. He was born May 28, 1660, and succeeded his father as elector of Brunswic-Lunenburgh, in 1698. The regency met, and gave orders immediately for his proclamation. On September 18, he landed, with the prince his son, at Greenwich, and on the 20th they made their public entry through the city to St. James's, attended by above 200 coaches and six of the nobility and gentry. The prince royal was declared prince of Wales; the king was crowned October 20; a new parliament met on March 17, 1715. In July the king gave the royal assent to an act for preventing tumults and riotous assemblies, commonly called the Riot Act, which is still in force.

This year a rebellion broke out, which was headed by the earl of Mar in Scotland, who set up the Pretender's standard, in September, in the highlands, and caused him to be proclaimed in several places; when the
earl

earl of Derwentwater, and others, appeared in arms, in the north of England, in October, and proclaimed the Pretender in several places. On November 12, they were attacked by the king's troops, commanded by the generals Wills and Carpenter, in Preston, where, after a smart firing from the windows, finding all the avenues to the town blocked up by the king's troops, on the 13th they desired to capitulate; but no other terms being allowed them, than submitting to the king's mercy, on the 14th, at seven in the morning, they submitted. On the very day the rebels were subdued at Preston, Sunday, November 13, the duke of Argyle defeated the rebel army, under the earl of Mar, consisting of about 8 or 9,000 men, at the Riff muir, about four miles from Aberdeen; and the earl of Mar retreated to Perth, after an obstinate fight, in which both sides claimed the victory, though the earl being frustrated in his design of crossing the Forth, shewed that the king's forces had the advantage. On December 22, the Pretender arrived in a Dunkirk privateer in Scotland, where he was presently met and complimented by the earl of Mar, and others of his adherents; but being closely pursued by the king's troops, on February 14, the pretender, with the earl of Mar, and some chiefs, found means to make their escape in a French ship which lay there: soon after which the rebels were conducted into the mountains by Gordon, their general, where

they dispersed. Some submitted, and some were taken prisoners. Among them was their general Forster, as also the earls of Derwentwater, Nithsdale, Carnwath, Wintoun, and other noblemen. The lords Derwentwater and Kenmuir were beheaded on Tower-hill, February 24, 1715-16; Nithsdale and Wintoun made their escape out of the Tower; and, after the execution of some of the rebels, an act of grace passed. Robert Walpole, Esq; was some time before made first commissioner of the treasury, and chancellor of the exchequer: and, about the same time, the parliament attainted James Butler, duke of Ormond, of high treason, and confiscated his estate. A few weeks after, the king gave the royal assent to an act for enlarging the time of continuance of parliaments for seven years, instead of three years, as by the triennial act passed in the reign of king William.

A quadruple alliance was signed at London, July 22, 1718, between the emperor, Great Britain and Holland. On July 31, Sir George Byng entirely defeated the Spanish fleet in the Mediterranean the Spaniards having attacked the citadel of Messina in Sicily, which was agreed to be given up to the emperor. War was declared against Spain in December following, both by Great Britain and France.

The year 1720 was remarkable for the South Sea scheme, when the greatest part of the nation turned stock-jobbers. South Sea
stock

stock rose and fell till it came to above 1000 ; but it fell faster than it rose, and many families were ruined by it, while a few got vast riches. The directors estates were sold for the benefit of the sufferers, and they were incapacitated from sitting in either house of parliament, or holding any office or place of trust for ever. Sir Robert Walpole, who had resigned, was again made chancellor of the exchequer, and first lord of the treasury ; which posts he held to the end of this reign, and fifteen years after.

On the 15th of April, 1721, the princess of Wales was delivered of William Augustus, the late duke of Cumberland. A new parliament met on October 9, 1722, when the king acquainted them with a conspiracy for overturning the established government, and setting up the Pretender. Christopher Layer, a counsellor of the Temple, was executed at Tyburn, May 17, 1723, and his head fixed upon Temple-bar, for being concerned in it. The parliament passed bills for inflicting pains and penalties on bishop Atterbury, Kely, and Plunket, on the same account, whereby the first was banished, and the two last imprisoned for life. In 1725, the earl of Macclesfield, lord high chancellor, resigned the seals ; he was fined 30,000*l.* and committed to the Tower till he paid it. He was succeeded by Sir Peter King, lord chief justice of the Common Pleas. At this time was passed an act for regulating elections in the city of London. The same session,

Henry St. John, lord viscount Bolingbroke, was restored to his estates, and an act passed for that purpose, though he was not restored to his title. In the same year, 1725, the order of the Bath was revived, and thirty-seven new knights were installed.

On September 3, 1725, a treaty was concluded between Great Britain, France, and Prussia; though the last, in effect, soon deserted this alliance; but the States General afterwards acceded to it. This treaty was designed as a balance to one which had been concluded between the courts of Vienna and Madrid. These counter-alliances put Europe again in a flame, and three British squadrons were fitted out, one sent to the West Indies, another to the coast of Spain, and the third to the Baltic. In the beginning of the year 1727, the Spaniards laid siege to Gibraltar; which, though it was suspended upon preliminary articles for a general pacification being signed, was not ratified till some time after the king's death. On June 3, his majesty embarked on board the *Carolina* yacht, and landed on the 7th at Vaert in Holland, where he lay that night; on the 9th he arrived at Delden, between 11 and 12 at night, seemingly in good health. He set out the next morning about three o'clock, was taken ill on the road, and died at his brother's palace at Osnabrug, June 11, 1727, in the 68th year of his age, and the 13th of his reign.

George

George I. was plain and simple in his person and address; grave and composed in his deportment, though easy, familiar, and facetious, in his hours of relaxation. Before he ascended the throne of Great Britain, he had acquired the character of a circumspect general, a just and merciful prince, and a wise politician, who perfectly understood, and steadily pursued his own interest. With these qualities, it cannot be doubted but that he came to England extremely well disposed to govern his new subjects according to the maxims of the British constitution, and the genius of the people; and, if ever he seemed to deviate from these principles, we may take it for granted, that he was misled by the venal suggestions of a ministry, whose power and influence were founded on corruption.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1715. April 22. A total eclipse.

1727. Inoculation first tried on criminals with success.

1727. Russia, formerly a dukedom, is now established as an empire.

GEORGE II.

GEORGE II. (then in the 44th year of his age) was proclaimed king of Great Britain on the 15th of June, 1727, being the

the day after the express arrived with the account of the death of his father. On the 11th of October, the coronation of the king and queen was performed at Westminster-abbey, with the usual solemnity.

In the beginning of December his majesty's eldest son, prince Frederic, arrived in England from Hanover, where he had hitherto resided; he was introduced into the privy council, and created prince of Wales.

The Spaniards still continued their depredations with impunity on the commerce of Great Britain. The court of Spain, indeed, at this juncture, seemed cold and indifferent with regard to a pacification with England. In September 1729, Victor Amadeus, king of Sardinia, resigned his crown to his son, Charles Emanuel, prince of Piedmont. The father reserved to himself a revenue of 100,000 pistoles per annum, retired to the castle of Chamberry, and espoused the countess dowager of St. Sebastian.

On the 1st of February, 1733, died Augustus II. king of Poland, which gave rise to a dreadful war in Europe. Three parties were formed on this occasion.

In 1734, king Stanislaus was obliged to fly secretly from Dantzic, and leave the crown of Poland to Augustus, elector of Saxony. England, during these transactions, preserved a neutrality. At length a quarrel breaking out between the courts of Madrid and Lisbon, the latter applied for assistance to the king of Great Britain, who
sent

sent Sir John Norris, with a powerful squadron, to Lisbon.

On the 27th of April, 1736, the prince of Wales was married to the princess of Saxe-Gotha.

The beginning of the year 1737, was distinguished by a rupture in the royal family, occasioned by the prince of Wales carrying away the princess of Wales, then near her time, from Hampton-court, where their majesties resided, to St. James's, where she was that night delivered of Augusta, now princess of Brunswick. On the 20th of November died queen Caroline, in the 55th year of her age. The dissension still subsisted between the prince of Wales and his father, who ordered the lord chamberlain to signify publicly, that no person who visited the prince should be admitted to the court at St. James's. In 1739, war was declared against Spain, and admiral Vernon sent in July, with a squadron of ships, to annoy their commerce and settlements in America, where, in November, he took the town of Porto-Bello, with only six ships. The next year advice was received from admiral Vernon, that he had bombarded Carthagea, and taken Fort Chagre. On the 20th of October, Charles VI emperor of Germany, the last prince of the house of Austria, died at Vienna, and was succeeded in his hereditary dominions by his eldest daughter, the archduchess Maria Theresa. The young king of Prussia was no sooner informed of
the

the emperor's death, than he entered Silesia at the head of 20,000 men, and seized certain fiefs to which his family laid claim. The elector of Bavaria refused to acknowledge the archduchess as queen of Hungary and Bohemia.

The year 1741 was remarkable for general Wenworth and admiral Vernon's unsuccessful expedition against Carthagena, owing to a disagreement which arose between them.

By the happy influence of his Britannic majesty, a treaty was concluded between Austria and Prussia, whereby Silesia was given up to the latter; to which treaty Saxony also acceded, and peace was proclaimed at Dresden on the 17th of September, 1742. This obliged the French to retire with great precipitation and loss to Prague, which prince Charles besieged with 60,000 men, there being 26 000 men in that city. Negotiations were carried on between the generals on the respective sides. The British fleet, under Sir Chaloner Ogle, was no ways fortunate in America. Commodore Knowles was sent out with a squadron of ships to attack La Guirra and Porto-Cavallo, on the coasts of Carraccas; but this attempt miscarried. He afterwards attacked Porto-Cavallo, but without success.

The queen of Hungary now began to triumph over all her enemies: the French were driven out of Bohemia; prince Charles, her general, at the head of a large army, invaded the dominions of Bavaria. The elector

was

was obliged to fly before her; abandoned by his allies, and stripped of all his dominions, he repaired to Frankfort, where he lived in indigence and obscurity. He now made advances towards an accommodation with the queen of Hungary. He agreed to continue neuter during the remainder of the war, while the French, who first began it as allies, supported the burthen. In the Netherlands, the English and French armies came to an engagement at the village of Dettingen, June 26, 1743. The order of battle, as directed by his Britannic majesty, was very masterly. The king advancing to the front of his army, gave fresh spirits to the soldiers. The British troops fired too soon, upon the marching up of the enemy; when the French black musquetaires, detaching themselves from their lines, and galloping between the allied foot, were all cut to pieces. The firing now became general; when the presence of his Britannic majesty, who was in the posts of the greatest danger, and behaved with the noblest intrepidity, fixed the fate of the day. Marshal Noailles shewed great bravery in this battle. The duke of Cumberland, being in the hottest of the engagement, was wounded in the calf of the leg. Hereupon marshal Noailles, after losing the flower of his army, ordered a retreat. In this battle the French lost 6000 men, and a multitude of officers, with some trophies, and the English 2500 men.

In

In 1744, commodore Anson returned from his expedition round the world. The French went on with vigour in every quarter; they opposed prince Charles of Lorraine; they interrupted his progress in his attempts to pass the Rhine, and gained some successes in Italy; but their chief expectations were placed in a projected invasion of England. The troops designed for this expedition amounted to 15,000. The duke de Roquefeuille, with twenty ships of the line, was to see them landed safely in England; and count Saxe was to command them, when put ashore. The whole project, however, was disconcerted by the appearance of Sir John Norris, with a superior fleet, making up against them; the French fleet was obliged to put back; a very hard gale of wind damaged their transports beyond redress. All hopes of invasion were now frustrated; and, at length, the French thought fit openly to declare war. The combined fleets of France and Spain, for some time, fought the British armament under the admirals Matthews and Lestock, though with inferior force, and came off nearly upon equal terms. Such a parity of success in England was regarded as a defeat. Both the English admirals were tried by a court martial. Matthews, who had fought the enemy with intrepidity, was declared incapable of serving for the future in his majesty's navy; Lestock, who had kept aloof, was acquitted with honour, as he had intrenched himself within

within the punctilios of discipline ; he barely did his duty ; a man of honour, when his country is at stake, should do more. The proceedings in the Netherlands were still more unfavourable. The French besieged and took Fribourg before they went into winter-quarters, and early the next campaign invested the city of Tournay. The allies were resolved to prevent the loss of this city by a battle. Their army was inferior to the French : notwithstanding this disadvantage, on the 30th of April, 1745, the duke of Cumberland marched to the attack at two in the morning. The British infantry pressed forward, bore down all opposition, and, for near an hour, were victorious. Marshal Saxe was at that time sick of the same disorder of which he afterwards died. He visited all the posts in a litter ; and saw, notwithstanding all appearances, that the day was his own. The English column, without command, by a mere mechanical courage, had advanced upon the enemies lines, which formed an avenue on each side to receive them. The French artillery began to play upon this forlorn body ; and, though they continued a long time unshaken, they were obliged to retreat about three o'clock in the afternoon. The allies left upon the field of battle near 12,000 slain ; and the French bought their victory with almost an equal number. This blow, by which Tournay was taken, gave the French a manifest superiority all the rest of

the campaign, which they did not forego during the continuance of the war.

The son of the old Pretender now resolved to make an effort at gaining the British crown. Being furnished with some money, and still larger promises, from France, he embarked for Scotland on board a small frigate, accompanied by the marquis of Tullibardine, and a few other desperate adventurers. For the conquest of the whole British empire, he brought with him seven officers, and arms for 2000 men. He landed on the coast of Lochabar, July 27, and was, in a little time, joined by some Highland chiefs, and their vassals. He soon saw himself at the head of 1500 men, and invited others to join him by manifestoes, which were dispersed throughout all the Highlands. The ministry was no sooner confirmed of the truth of his arrival, than Sir John Cope was ordered to oppose his progress. In the mean time, the young adventurer marched to Perth, where his father, the chevalier de St. George, was proclaimed king of Great Britain. The rebel army advanced towards Edinburgh, which they entered without opposition. Here too the pageantry of proclamation was performed. But though he was master of the capital, yet the citadel, which goes by the name of the castle, with a good garrison under the command of general Gueist, braved all his attempts. Sir John Cope, who was now reinforced by two regiments of dragoons, resolved to march towards

wards Edinburgh, and give him battle. The young adventurer attacked him near Preston-Pans, and in a few minutes totally routed him and his troops. In this victory the king lost 500 men, and the rebels not above 80.

In the mean time the Pretender went forward with vigour ; and having advanced to Penrith, continued his eruption till he came to Manchester, where he established his headquarters : from thence he prosecuted his route to Derby ; but he determined once more to retreat to Scotland. He effected his retreat to Carlisle without any loss, and having reinforced the garrison of the place, crossed the rivers Eden and Solway into Scotland.

After many attacks and skirmishes, the duke of Cumberland put himself at the head of the troops at Edinburg, which consisted of about 14,000 men. He resolved to come to a battle as soon as possible, and marched forward, while the young adventurer retired at his approach. The duke advanced to Aberdeen, where he was joined by the duke of Gordon, and some other lords. The Highlanders were drawn up in order of battle on the plain of Culloden, to the number of 8000 men. The duke marched thither, and the battle began about one o'clock in the afternoon, April 16. In less than thirty minutes, the rebels were totally routed, and the field covered with their dead bodies. The duke, immediately after the battle, or-

dered thirty-six deserters to be executed. At length a general peace was proclaimed in London, on February 2, 1749.

On the 17th of May, 1756, his Britannic majesty declared war against France, and sent admiral Byng, with a strong fleet, to the relief of Minorca; but he neglecting to fulfill his instructions, the place was lost, and he was tried and shot at Portsmouth. During these transactions, Mr. Clive, one of the clerks of the East India Company, distinguished himself in the East Indies, obtaining the rank of colonel, and had such amazing success, that all the towns and factories of the French on the coast of Coromandel, except Pondicherry, were in a few years taken by the English. On the other hand, in 1758, the duke of Marlborough landed near St. Maloes in France, burnt many ships, with a great quantity of naval stores. Lieutenant-general Bligh and captain Howe took Cherbourg, and demolished the fortifications. Soon after captain Marth took Senegal, and commodore Keppel the island of Goree, on the coast of Africa. On the 26th of July, Cape Breton was retaken by general Amherst and admiral Boscawen. Soon after fort Frontenac surrendered to lieutenant-general Bradstreet, and fort Duquesne to general Forbes. On the 1st of May, 1759, the island of Guadaloupe surrendered to the English; in the same month Marigalante, Santos, and Desceada, became subject to Great Britain.

On

On August 1, was fought the glorious battle of Minden, in which about 7000 English defeated 80,000 of the French regular troops.

The command of the expedition against Quebec, the capital of the French Canada, was given to general Wolfe, a young officer of a true military genius. Wolfe's courage and perseverance surmounted incredible difficulties; he gained the heights of Abraham, near Quebec, where he fought and defeated the French army, but was himself killed. General Amherst, who was the first English general on command in America, conducted another expedition; and Canada shortly became subject to Great Britain.

The affairs of the French being now desperate, and their credit ruined, they resolved upon an attempt to retrieve all by an invasion of Great Britain: but, on the 18th of August, 1759, admiral Boscawen attacked the Toulon squadron, commanded by M. de la Clue, near the Streights of Gibraltar, took three ships, and burnt two.

On the 20th of November, Sir Edward Hawke defeated the Brest fleet, commanded by admiral Conflans, off the island of Dumer, in the Bay of Biscay. After this engagement, the French gave over all thoughts of their intended invasion of Great Britain.

In February, 1760, captain Thurot, a French marine adventurer, who with three sloops of war had alarmed the coasts of Scotland, and actually made a descent at

Carrickfergus, in Ireland, was, on his return from thence, met, defeated, and killed, by captain Elliot, who was the commodore of three ships, inferior in force to the Frenchman's squadron.

On the 26th of October, 1760, George II. died suddenly, full of years and glory, in the 77th year of his age, and the 33d of his reign. He was interred on the 10th of November, at Westminster.

George II. was, in his person, rather lower than the middle size, well shaped, erect, with eyes remarkably prominent, a high nose, and fair complexion. In his disposition he is said to have been hasty, prone to anger, especially in his youth, yet soon appeased; otherwise mild, moderate, and humane; in his way of living, temperate and regular. He was fond of military pomp and parade, and personally brave. He loved war as a soldier; he studied it as a science; and corresponded on the subject with some of the greatest officers whom Germany had produced. The circumstances that chiefly mark his public character were, a predilection for his native country, and a close attention to the political interests of the Germanic body.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1738 Westminster-bridge was begun this year, and finished in 1750.

1753. The British Museum established.

1755. Lisbon destroyed by an earthquake.

1756.

G E O R G E III. 151

1756. 123 Englishmen perished in the black hole at Calcutta.

1760. Black-friars bridge was begun this year, and finished in 1770.

G E O R G E III. the present KING.

GEORGE III. the eldest son of Frederick prince of Wales, was born on the 4th of June, 1738, and proclaimed king of Great Britain on the 26th of October, 1760. The brighter the national glory was at the time of George the Second's death, the more arduous was the province of his successor, George the Third. He chose for his first minister the earl of Bute, whom he had known ever since he began to know himself: and among the first acts of his reign was to convince the public, that the death of his predecessor should not relax the operations of the war. Accordingly, in 1761, the island of Belleisle, on the coast of France, surrendered to his majesty's ships and forces, under commodore Keppel and general Hodgson; as did the important fortrefs of Pondicherry, in the East Indies, to general Coote and admiral Stevens. The operations against the French West Indies still continued, under general Monckton, lord Rollo, and Sir James Douglas; and, in 1762, the island of Martinico, hitherto deemed impregnable, with the islands of Grenada, Grenadillas, St. Vincent, and others of less note, were subdued by the British.

tish arms, with inconceivable rapidity. By this time the famous family compact among all the branches of the Bourbon family had been concluded, and it was found necessary to declare war against Spain, who having been hitherto no principals in the quarrel, had scandalously abused their neutrality in favour of the French. A respectable armament was fitted out under admiral Pocock, having the earl of Albemarle on board to command the land forces ; and the vitals of the Spanish monarchy were struck at by the reduction of the Havannah, the strongest and most important fort which his catholic majesty held in the West Indies. The capture of the *Hermione*, a large Spanish register-ship, bound from Lima to Cadiz, the cargo of which was valued at a million sterling, preceded the birth of the prince of Wales, and the treasure passed in triumph through Westminster to the Bank, the very hour he was born. The loss of the Havannah, with the ships and treasures there taken from the Spaniards, was succeeded by the reduction of Manilla, in the East Indies, by general Draper and admiral Cornish, with the capture of the *Trinidad*, reckoned worth three millions of dollars. To counteract those dreadful blows given to the family compact, the French and Spaniards opened their last resource, which was to quarrel with, and invade Portugal, which had been always under the peculiar protection of the British arms. Whether this quarrel was real or pretended,



Death of General Wolfe.



t
t
l
s
t
f
a
A
a
o
P
k
c
k
f
2
t
a
b
b

e
B
V
a
d
t
N
A
c
t
a
f

tended, is not for us to determine. It certainly embarrassed his Britannic majesty, who was obliged to send thither armaments both by sea and land ; but these found no great difficulty in checking the progress of the Spaniards. The enemy, at last, granted such terms as the British ministry thought admissible, and adequate to the occasion. A cessation of arms took place in Germany, and in all other quarters ; and, on the 10th of February, 1763, the definitive treaty of peace between his Britannic majesty, the king of France, and the king of Spain, was concluded at Paris, acceded to by the king of Portugal. On March 10, the ratifications were exchanged at Paris ; on the 22d, the peace was solemnly proclaimed at the usual places in Westminster and London ; and the treaty having, on the 18th, been laid before the parliament, it met with the approbation of a majority of both houses.

Never was the fortune of any nation higher than that of the English at this period. Besides our rich possessions in the East and West Indies, or those on the coast of Africa, all enlarged by a series of the most extraordinary success, and confirmed by a perpetual treaty, without including Hudson's Bay, Newfoundland, or the other islands of North America, we were masters of all that vast continent, which stretches from the mouth of the river St. Lawrence to that of the Mississippi, and from the Atlantic ocean to the South-sea : the most extensive empire that ever was
formed

formed on the face of the earth. Nor was this a barren and unprofitable territory, as the greater part of it was either cultivated or susceptible of improvement; and it offered to the mother country, in conjunction with her other conquests and settlements, the largest field that ever was opened to the commerce and industry of any people. But the time was suddenly to arrive, when that commerce was to be interrupted, that industry deprived of its enlivening principle, and the greater part of the empire violently torn from the parent state, by a system of politics the most irrational and disgraceful that ever tarnished the page of history. In what manner these events gradually took place, will be the subject of the remaining pages; but we shall first take a cursory view of what was transacting at this time in the eastern parts of the world, as well as of what passed at home.

In the East Indies, in 1764, the nabob, set up by Lord Clive, was deposed; and, the factory not agreeing with the nabob's successor, 4000 of the garrison and inhabitants of Patna were put to the sword, and the town plundered, besides several of the English being surprised and cut to pieces. Upon these, and other acts of hostilities, war was declared against the nabob, Cossim Ali Cawn; and the former nabob, Meer Jaffier, was soon restored, who thereupon entered into a more advantageous treaty with the company. Soon after, an action happened, in which the
English

English were victorious. After this success, the city of Moorsshedabad became an easy conquest; and not long after, the restored nabob, Meer Jaffier, was proclaimed. In the mean time, the French took possession of Turk's island, and of nine sail of English ships; they then destroyed every house, and secured all the slaves they could find. Major Adams, however, the English commander, again routed the enemy, and carried Rajamoul by assault, when Patna soon surrendered.

In 1766, peace was established in the East Indies by lord Clive, who returned the following year; but a new enemy now started up. Hyder Aly, who, from a common soldier, had become a prince of a large tract of territory on the Malabar coast, in confederacy with the viceroy of the Decan, declared war against the English. The council of Madras sent a body of troops under colonel Smith, who obtained a complete victory over them, when the viceroy immediately made peace with the English. Hyder Aly took refuge among the mountains, from whence he made frequent incursions. In 1768, a small fleet forced into Mangalore, one of Hyder's principal sea-ports, and carried off his fleet. This war continued till the next year, when peace was proposed to Hyder, and accepted. Having thus finished the affairs of the East, I shall return to the transactions at home.

During

During the administration of Mr. Grenville, in 1765, bills passed for laying a stamp duty on the British colonies in America, which first laid the foundation of those quarrels between the colonies and the mother country, which ended in a total separation. This measure was no sooner known in America, than insurrections commenced there, and great murmurings at home. In consequence of which, the ministry retired, and the act was repealed.

In the course of this year, the sovereignty of the Isle of Man was annexed to the crown of England; and this year, on account of the seizure of Mr. Wilkes's papers, general warrants granted by secretaries of state, except in cases of high treason, were declared to be illegal and oppressive.

The next year, several changes in the ministry took place: The Duke of Grafton was appointed first lord of the treasury in July; and Mr. Pitt, who had been created Earl of Chatham, was made lord privy seal; but lord North was placed at the head of administration soon after.

Mr. Wilkes, who had long resided abroad, returned in 1768, and offered himself as a candidate to represent the city of London, though a sentence of outlawry against him had never been repealed. He lost his election; but immediately stood for Middlesex, where he was chosen by a great majority. He soon after surrendered himself, and was committed to the King's Bench prison.

son. In consequence of which, several riots happened in St. George's-fields, and some persons were killed. The ministry determined to persecute Mr. Wilkes, who was accordingly expelled the House of Commons, fined a thousand pounds, and imprisoned two and twenty months, for publishing No. 45, of the North Briton, the Essay on Woman, and some other papers. This severity only increased Mr. Wilkes's popularity, who was several times elected for Middlesex; till it was resolved, that Mr. Luttrell, who had opposed him, but had not one third as many votes, ought to have been returned. Petitions were presented from various quarters, complaining, that the rights of election were infringed, and a general discontent prevailed.

Mr. Wilkes's imprisonment expired in 1771, when he was chosen one of the sheriffs for London and Middlesex, made an alderman, had his debts paid, amounting to twenty or thirty thousand pounds, was elected lord mayor, and afterwards chamberlain of London. The same year, 1771, several printers were ordered to attend the House of Commons; but one of them refused, and carried the messenger before the lord mayor. Alderman Wilkes and Oliver happened to be present, and, finding that the speaker's warrant was not backed by a city magistrate, they would have committed the messenger to prison, if he had not procured bail. On this the House committed the lord mayor and

alderman

alderman Oliver to the Tower, but avoided meddling with Mr. Wilkes.

While matters were in this situation at home, they were getting much worse in America, where the joy, which the repeal of the stamp-act had occasioned, was of short duration. New duties were laid on paper, glass, tea, and other articles; but as a general combination seemed forming not to take any of those commodities from the mother country, the acts were repealed, except the duties on tea. Laws were also passed, which gave great umbrage, for quartering troops in America, for suspending the legislative power at New York, and for appointing governors in the colonies, who were to be paid by the crown. Some vessels laden with tea attempted to land in America; but at Boston and South Carolina the teas were thrown into the sea, and from other places the ships returned with their cargoes untouched. These proceedings enraged the government of England, who passed acts for shutting up the port of Boston, for altering the constitution of Massachusetts Bay and Quebec, so that the magistrates might be appointed by the king of England.

In this situation of affairs, the Americans entered into agreement, not to trade with Great Britain till these acts were repealed. At the same time the delegates, appointed from the English colonies, avowed their loyalty to his majesty, but supplicated him to order a change of measures. This petition

tion of the congress was rejected; an application of their agents to be heard at the bar of the House of Commons was refused, and, finally, a bill of the Earl of Chatham's, to accomodate the troubles of America, was rejected in the House of Lords.

The Americans, finding themselves thus treated, began to train their militia with great industry. They erected powder-mills in Philadelphia and Virginia, and began to prepare arms in all the provinces; nor were these preparations fruitless, as will evidently appear from what followed. On the 19th of April, 1775, general Gage detached a party, to seize some military stores at Concord, in New England. Several skirmishes ensued, many were killed on both sides, and the troops would probably have been all cut off, if a fresh body had not arrived to their relief. Arms were now taken up in every quarter, and they assumed the title of, *The United Colonies of America*. Their first resolutions were for raising an army, for establishing an extensive paper currency, and for stopping all exportations to those places, which still retained their obedience. About 240 provincials next took the garrison of Ticonderago and Crown-point, without any loss of men; and here they found plenty of military stores. Great Britain encreased her army, and sent over the generals Howe, Burgoyne, and Clinton.

These inimical proceedings did not terrify the congress, who encouraged the people of

Massachusetts-bay to resume their chartered rights, ordered the blockade of Boston to be continued, and, that they might secure Charles-town, in one night they raised very considerable works on Bunker's-hill. As soon as they were discovered in the morning, a heavy fire ensued from the ships, the floating batteries, and from Cop's-hill in Boston. This they sustained, and were with difficulty driven from their intrenchments in the evening, by a large party, under the conduct of the generals Howe and Pigot. The contest was severe, Charles-town was burned, 226 of the English officers and men were killed. The Americans then threw works on the other side of Charles-town-neck, so that the troops were as closely invested as they had been in Boston.

George Washington, Esq. was, about this time, appointed to the command of the American army; the congress published spirited memorials of their reasons for taking up arms, and offered a second fruitless petition to the king. Their generals were then ordered to endeavour to subjugate those colonies that espoused the cause of Great Britain. Two parties were sent against Canada, under general Montgomery and colonel B. Arnold, who boldly undertook to march, by an untried route, from Boston to Quebec. After innumerable difficulties, they reached the town, which they at first attempted to take by storm, and then to block up. In this attempt, Montgomery fell, and Arnold, who

was

was dangerously wounded, was forced to make a hasty retreat. In the mean time, general Carleton, the governor of Canada, received fresh supplies from England.

In 1776, Boston was bombarded and evacuated, when general Washington took possession of it, and general Howe removed his troops to Halifax. While the breach was thus widening in America, several members of the British senate were at home endeavouring to bring matters to a reconciliation; but it was not the disposition of the reigning ministry to give up any thing that they apprehended could promote their wild and chimerical schemes of power and ambition.

In July, a fruitless attack was made upon Charles-town, in which the English suffered considerably. About this time, general Howe landed, drove the Americans out of Long island, who abandoned New York to the British forces. Offers of reconciliation were now made by Howe, and rejected. Sir Peter Parker and general Clinton took Rhode Island, and the English also made some incursions into the Jerseys. General Washington soon after surprised and took prisoners above 900 of the Hessian troops in our service, with several stands of arms. Privateers were also fitted out from England and America, who continually made prizes of each other, and matters were carried on with great animosity on both sides.

The next year, 1777, there were two actions between the generals Howe and

Washington, and Philadelphia surrendered to the king's troops. A plan was now formed for invading the revolted colonies by way of Canada, and general Burgoyne undertook the expedition ; but after many difficulties, and some desperate actions, this army was obliged to surrender themselves prisoners of war to Gates and Arnold. Our expedition up the North river was more successful, under Clinton and Vaughan ; the former of whom, soon after, succeeded general Howe as commander in chief, and, after evacuating Philadelphia, he retreated with his army to New York.

In 1778, the French entered into an alliance with the Thirteen United Colonies ; and as affairs wore so gloomy an aspect, the earl of Carlisle, William Eden, and George Johnstone, Esqrs. were sent as commissioners to treat of peace ; but the hour was passed, and the terms were rejected with disdain. The war was then carried on with mutual animosity, and the whole of Georgia was reduced by the British forces. Hostilities next commenced with France, and the English admiral Keppel engaged the French fleet under Count D'Orvilliers. Not a ship was taken on either side ; and, upon some censure being passed on vice admiral Sir Hugh Palliser's conduct, he applied to Keppel for redress, which was denied. He then exhibited articles of accusation against Keppel, who was tried and honourably acquitted ; Palliser was next tried, and acquitted, and there the farce ended, In

In the mean time, Sir Edward Vernon, in the East Indies, drove off the French under De Tronjolly, and soon after Pondicherry surrendered to the arms of England, as did St. Lucia in the West Indies. Dominica, St. Vincent, and Grenada, however, were taken by the French, who, in 1779, assisted the Americans with a fleet, under Count D'Estaing. But General Prevost repulsed the Americans and their allies at Savannah, and the latter were soon obliged to abandon the enterprize. In this year, the French made an unsuccessful attempt on the island of Jersey; and some time after, Sir Hyde Parker took several of their ships. Spain now joined France against us, took New Orleans on the Mississippi, and laid siege to Gibraltar with great ardour. The combined fleet of France and Spain rode triumphant in the channel, but separated without effecting any thing.

Sir G. B. Rodney, in the beginning of 1780, with a large fleet, captured seven ships, and a few days afterwards captured five Spanish ships of the line; one was lost by being driven on shore, and another was blown up. In April and May, the same admiral, after throwing supplies into Gibraltar, had three undecisive engagements with the French fleet, in the West Indies, where several of our ships suffered dreadfully in a hurricane, and some were lost. In July, admiral Geary took twelve French merchant ships; but the combined fleet, in August,
took

took five English East-Indiamen, and fifty merchant ships bound for the West Indies.

In America, General Clinton took possession of Charlestown, earl Cornwallis obtained a victory over general Gates, and colonel Tarleton acquired fame, by his conduct in several skirmishes. In July, a fleet, and a large body of troops from France, arrived at Rhode Island.

This year was remarkable for one of the most dreadful riots that ever happened in the city and suburbs of London. A protestant association of Calvinists and Methodists, with lord George Gordon at their head, while the nation was involved in real danger, alarmed themselves with fancied apprehensions of popery, and determined to excite the legislature to repeal an act they had just passed in favour of the catholics. A petition was signed by above 100,000 persons, which was presented to the House of Commons on the 2d of June. They proceeded to the House in great order, and their president gave in the petition; but, in the course of the day, several lords and commoners were insulted by the mob, who pulled down the Sardinian and another Romish chapel, when the military were sent for, who carried five of the rioters to Newgate. Every thing remained quiet on the king's birth-day, which was kept on Saturday instead of Sunday, on which day another Popish chapel was demolished. On Monday, the 5th, a Popish school, three priests houses, a library, and all

all Sir George Saville's furniture, were destroyed. On Tuesday, the mob was so riotous before both houses of parliament, that they obliged them to adjourn; and in the evening, when the keeper of Newgate refused to deliver up the rioters, they set fire to his house and the prison, and let out about 300 prisoners, many of whom joined them. They then proceeded to the Bank, which they would have plundered, had it not been protected by the military and city association. In the evening, lord Mansfield's, Mr. Langdale's house and distillery, and Sir John Fielding's, were burnt, and several private persons had their houses pulled down. On the next day, the King's Bench prison, the New Bridewell, the Fleet Prison, some Popish chapels, and several Papists houses, were destroyed. Fires were seen blazing in every part of the capital, and the lawless mob were exacting contribution from the citizens, while the magistrates, and even the ministry, viewed these scenes of desolation with an inactivity that is astonishing. At length, however, their courage seemed roused, troops were called into London from all quarters, and were stationed in every part of the town. This step effectually checked the progress of the rioters, a great number of whom were shot by the military, and others taken, tried, and executed. Lord George Gordon was also tried, but acquitted.

During

During these disturbances, a rupture was expected with the Dutch, who had, for some time past, privately assisted the Americans. In January, commodore Fielding took several ships with naval stores on board, which were under convoy of the Dutch admiral; and in September, Mr. Keppel captured a congress packet boat, on board of which was Mr. Lawrens, late president of the congress, among whose papers was found the plan of a treaty between America and Holland. Mr. Lawrens was committed to the Tower, and fresh applications were made to the States General; but, as no satisfactory answer could be obtained, hostilities were declared by the English, on Dec. 20, 1780.

In September, this year, the Resolution and Discovery returned from a voyage round the world, but neither of their commanders, the captains Cook and Clerk, returned with them. The former was killed in an affray with the natives of Owyhee, a newly discovered island, on the 14th of Feb. 1779, and the latter died soon after of a consumption. These ships reached England without suffering from our enemies, as the belligerent powers had issued orders not to molest these vessels, the pursuit, in which they were engaged, being considered of great and universal utility.

In 1781, intelligence was brought to England, that our shipping had suffered considerably by several hurricanes in the Leward Islands, which did incredible damage at land
and

and sea. The war with Holland began vigorously. Admiral Rodney and general Vaughan took the island of St. Eustatius, St. Martin, Saba, and St. Bartholomew, with a Dutch flag ship of 60 guns, a frigate of 38, and above 200 smaller vessels. However, we did not long enjoy the former part of this victory ; for, before the close of the year, St. Eustatius, by some unaccountable misconduct, perhaps treachery, was taken by the French. To admiral Rodney, the Dutch colonies of Demarary and Iffequibo also surrendered. Commodore Johnstone took four Dutch East Indiamen in the bay of Saldanka, where a fifth was burned ; and admiral H. Parker had a very severe engagement with the Dutch fleet off the Dogger Bank. One of the enemy's ships sunk in the night, but none were taken.

Our army in America still continued their operations with different success. Fort Anne and Fort George surrendered to general Carleton. Great expectations were now formed from the discontent of some rebel troops, and the Pennsylvania line ; but all attempts on our part, to induce them to join the royal army, proved fruitless. Admiral Arbuthnot engaged the French fleet in America, and assisted the generals Phipps and Arnold in ravaging Virginia. Skirmishes were frequent ; but earl Cornwallis, by rapid marches, prevented the junction of the rebel armies. On the other hand, a party under colonel Tarleton suffered much in an engagement

engagement with general Morgan. In the mean time, Wilmington surrendered to the royal arms, and some batteries were destroyed. Earl Cornwallis gained a victory over general Green, near Guildford, in North Carolina; and a second engagement with lord Rawdon followed. However, the day was now hastily arriving, in which Britain was to give up all hopes of ever conquering America; for soon after, De Grasse reached the Chesapeak, and before admiral Graves could attack him, general Washington, with his assistance, surrounded earl Cornwallis's army, who was obliged to surrender prisoners of war to the combined forces of France and America.

About the same time, the Spaniards made themselves masters of Pensacola, and the whole of West Florida. They also pushed the siege of Gibraltar with great spirit; but a party of our troops made a sally from the fortrefs, and destroyed all their works, which were nearly compleated.

The French dispatched their fleets to attempt distressing us in every quarter. They attacked Jersey; and the lieutenant-governor Corbett was tried and suspended for his strange neglect of duty. M. de la Motte Piquett captured part of the St. Eustatia fleet; and another squadron attacked governor Johnstone off St. Jago, when the action was severe, and the ships on both sides were much damaged. The French also landed at St. Lucia; but, without being able to accomplish

accomplish any thing there, they quitted it, and proceeded to Tobago, which they obliged to capitulate.

In the East Indies, soon after Sir Hector Monro had taken the field, a party under colonel Bailey, attempting to join him, was either cut to pieces, or taken by Hyder Aly, who took Arcot by assault, and obliged the fort to capitulate. The command of the company's troops were soon after given to Sir Eyre Coote, who obtained a complete victory over Aly, between Porto Novo and Mooteapallam. Some of Aly's ships also were burned on the Malabar coast by Sir Edward Hughes. Basan soon after surrendered; and colonel Carnac engaged and conquered Mhadage Scuidia. The French then left the Coromandel coast, without assisting Hyder Aly, who quitted the Carnatic.

Admiral Rodney and general Vaughan made an unsuccessful attempt against St. Vincents; but admiral Kempenfelt was more fortunate in taking several transports, which were under convoy of the French fleet, commanded by M. de Guichen.

In the mean time, every action of the ministry at home was narrowly scrutinized by the minority, who were led by the hon. Mr. Fox and Mr. Burke. In the House of Peers, the encrease of popery, and the commutation of tythes, were canvassed. In the House of Commons, bills were brought in for regulating his majesty's civil establish-
P ment,

ment, for limiting the jurisdiction of the supreme court of Calcutta, and for other important purposes.

In 1782, after the surrender of earl Cornwallis, our affairs in America seemed desperate, and every one seemed desirous of bringing it to a conclusion, except those, whose tyranny, ambition, and ignorance, had been the cause of it. Sir James Lowther (now earl of Lonsdale) therefore moved, in the House of Commons, that all further attempts to reduce the Americans by force would be injurious to the true interest of Great Britain. After a long and vigorous debate, the motion was rejected. The mode of exchanging prisoners was next canvassed; and Mr. Lawrens was ordered to be released from the Tower. A motion was next made for addressing his majesty to put a stop to the American war; and the motion was lost by one vote only. A second motion was then made, and agreed to. Addresses were presented to the king, a complete change in administration followed, and the negotiations for a general peace commenced. The independency of America was allowed. Some little skirmishes, however, took place, and the refugees in British pay, after taking a fort on Tom's river, hanged the commander of it, to revenge some cruelties with which he was charged. This violently enraged the Americans, and general Washington demanded the officer, who had condemned him as a murderer. This was refused,

on

on which capt. Apgill, of the guards, was by lot ordered into confinement, and doomed to suffer in his stead. However, after a most painful suspense, he was released. His mother, lady Apgill, applied to the French minister, Count de Vergennes, whose intercession with gen. Washington, strengthened by the generous interference of the queen of France, procured life and liberty to the unfortunate victim.

Sir Guy Carleton afterwards succeeded Sir Henry Clinton in the command. He immediately acquainted general Washington, that admiral Digby and himself were empowered to treat of peace with the people of America. After some little jealousies and negociations, after the king's troops had evacuated Savannah, the province of Georgia, and Charlestown, the provisional articles were signed at Paris, on the 30th of November. Thus terminated this inglorious war, in which so many valuable lives had been lost, and so many millions of money had been squandered away, to gratify the wild and ruinous ambition of a few, and to the emolument of many jobbers and contractors, who now bask in the sunshine of affluence, at the expence of the ruin of their country.

While matters were thus drawing to a crisis at home, let us see what was transacting abroad. In the East Indies our successes were great. By the defeat of Hyder Aly, Tanjour and Trinchinopoly were de-

livered from his depredations. Intelligence arrived, that general Coote had laid siege to Tripassore, and gained a second complete victory over his army. Sir Hector Munro, assisted by Sir Edward Hughes, possessed themselves of the Dutch settlement of Negapatam and Fort Ostenburgh. Hyder's troops now evacuated all their posts in the Tanjore, and several petty princes, who had revolted, returned to their obedience. Sir Edward Hughes next took Tryncomale in the island of Ceylon, with two Dutch ships, and several small vessels. Major Abington relieved Tellichery, which Hyder had besieged, and routed the enemy, taking from them 1500 prisoners, military stores, and treasure to a great amount. The French, however, with Hyder's son, Tippu Saib, defeated the company's troops soon after, and either captured or destroyed the whole detachment. Cuddalore also capitulated to the French. Hostilities afterwards ceased between the Marrattas and the company's forces; but M. Suffrein, with the French fleet, coming to the assistance of Hyder, he took Pernacoli. Several engagements followed between admiral Hughes and Suffrein, some of which were desperate, but none decisive.

Though we took a vast number of prizes from the French, yet they made themselves masters of Minorca, as they did of Nevis and St. Christopher in the West Indies; and Demarara and Isequeibo soon shared the same

same fate. Soon after, admiral Rodney had a partial engagement with Count de Grasse, who retired to Guadaloupe to refit; but not long after, the two fleets met, and a general engagement commenced, which lasted twelve hours, when four French ships were taken, and one sunk; a fifth was taken, but blew up. Admiral Hood captured four, and admiral Barrington two ships of war, and ten sail under their convoy. The Count de Grasse was taken and brought to England; but most of the prizes, with some of our own ships, were lost, in their passage to England, in a most violent storm.

The Spaniards took from us the Bahama islands, and continued the siege of Gibraltar with a vigorous perseverance; but all their efforts were rendered ineffectual by the bravery and conduct of general Elliot. He again permitted them almost to complete their works, when he began such a heavy fire of carcasses, hot shot, and shells, that several of their batteries were damaged, and some destroyed. The English also forced seven Spanish and two French ships of the line, with several smaller ones, to retreat. Soon after, another attack was made by ten floating batteries, built by the Spaniards at an enormous expence; but, by an incessant fire of red hot balls from the besieged, most of them were set in flames; when captain Curtis, with two English gun-boats, advanced, and prevented their receiving any assistance from the Spanish fleet. The humanity of

captain Curtis saved 357 of the enemy. Great numbers, however, must have been killed and blown up. Fresh supplies were soon after thrown into Gibraltar by lord Howe, who had a partial engagement, with the combined fleets, off the mouth of the Straits.

A complete change was now made in the ministry, at the head of which the marquis of Rockingham was placed, overtures for a general pacification were made, and some indulgences were granted to Ireland; some useless places were abolished, and some fruitless attempts were made for a more equal representation in parliament. On the death of the marquis of Rockingham, lord Shelburne (now marquis of Lansdown) took the lead in administration, and several resignations followed. This year the Royal George, of 120 guns, was unfortunately overset, when the brave admiral Kempenfelt, and near 600 other persons, were drowned in her.

In 1783, the provisional articles between England and America were made public. By these it appeared, that his Britannic majesty acknowledged the independence of the United States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia. He also relinquished all claims to the government of them, and consented to treat with those people

people as free and independent states, who but a little time before were despised as unpardonable rebels. Their boundaries were also settled, and they were allowed the liberty of fishing, and drying fish, as usual. It was agreed, that the creditors on both sides should meet with no impediment in the prosecution of their claims. The restoration of confiscated property was also *recommended*, and all prisoners were to be set at liberty. The English troops were to be immediately withdrawn from America, and a firm and perpetual peace was concluded between the contracting parties. In these articles, no provision was made for the American loyalists, the line of boundary was blamed as inaccurate, and the liberty of fishing was condemned as an instance of extravagant liberality. The definitive treaty was next signed, and thus finished a business that will for ever disgrace the annals of Great Britain.

In our treaty with the French, after settling the fisheries, the islands of St. Pierre, St. Lucia, Tobago, and Goree, were surrendered to France, with the river Senegal, and its dependencies, and the forts of St. Louis and others. The islands of Granada, the Grenadines, St. Vincent, Dominica, St. Kitts, Nevis, and Montserrat, were left to the English; and the islands which the English had taken from the French in the East Indies, were restored; and the prisoners on both sides were to be surrendered without ransom.

With

With the Dutch, our negotiations were not so easily settled. However, after much deliberation, and several memorials, it was stipulated by treaty, that the king of Great Britain should restore Trincomale, and all the possessions that had been taken during the war, to the Dutch; and that the States General should guarantee Negapatan, with its dependencies, to his Britannic majesty; and that mutual conquests were to be given up without compensation.

Our treaty with the Spaniards determined, that his Catholic majesty should maintain Minorca and West Florida, and to have East Florida ceded to him; and that Spain should surrender the island of Providence and the Bahamas to the English. All other conquests of territories were mutually to be restored without compensation.

At home, the preliminary articles of peace were canvassed with great freedom in both houses of parliament; but to enter into the various subjects of dispute, or the merits of the disputants, would far exceed the narrow limits of this work: we must therefore content ourselves with only general remarks.

Some important motions were carried against the ministry in the House of Commons; and, after various and ineffectual struggles, the earl of Shelburne and his party resigned, and the Duke of Portland was placed at the head of the new administration, while Mr. Fox took the lead in the lower house. Mr. Pitt, the son of the great earl
of

of Chatham, made a motion for a parliamentary reform, which did not succeed. The next important event was a decision in the House of Lords, by which bonds of resignation respecting church-livings were declared illegal by a decision of that house. This was followed by another unsuccessful attempt to bring on a reform. Parliament consented to a bill for the relief of the American loyalists; for ordering the establishment of the prince of Wales; and for granting pensions to lord Rodney and general Elliott, for their important services. Soon after the parliament was prorogued, and on the 6th of October peace was proclaimed.

Soon after the meeting of parliament, in November, Mr. Fox brought forward his bill for the regulation of India. It was carried through the lower house by a great majority; but was rejected in the upper house. On the following night, Dec. 18, the ministry were suddenly dismissed, and Mr. Pitt was announced first lord of the treasury. This change was not expected to be permanent; and so strong was Mr. Fox's party in the House of Commons, that noblemen were at first afraid of accepting places of responsibility. These apprehensions were soon conquered; but still the minister found himself in a minority. Several addresses were presented by the opposition to his majesty, and all public business seemed to cease. The ministry, however, were determined, and refused to resign. Attempts were made to
form

form a coalition, but they proved unsuccessful, and the parliament was dissolved on the 24th of March.

The next parliament met on the 18th of May, 1784, when it was soon discovered, that there was a considerable majority on the side of the minister. When the election for Westminster, in which Mr. Fox complained of the illegal proceedings of the high bailiff, was discussed, the minister carried almost every motion; notwithstanding which, Mr. Fox at last triumphed, and now sits as member for the city of Westminster. The minister brought forward his taxes, and his India bill, all which passed, some of them without even a division. Laws were also made for the prevention of smuggling, the support of the public revenue, and for the restoration of the Scotch titles, which had been forfeited in the rebellion. At length, after a long and busy session, the parliament was prorogued on the 10th of August.

The present year, 1785, has been also a period of political contention. Mr. Pitt presented to the House a string of Propositions, tending to settle the commerce of England and Ireland on a mutual and equitable footing. They met with great opposition in both Houses; and, though they with difficulty passed, they were so encreased and mutilated, as to retain hardly any thing of their original form. On being sent over to Ireland, they met with great opposition in that kingdom, and were soon thrown out
with

with contempt, both countries considering them as destructive to their own interests. The unpopular taxes that have passed this year, are too well known and *felt* to require the assistance of history to record them.

Remarkable Events of the present Reign.

1763 Peace proclaimed between England, France, and Spain.

1764. Four thousands of the garrison and inhabitants of Patna, in the East Indies, put to the sword.

1765. General warrants, except in cases of high treason, declared illegal.

1768 Mr. Wilkes, though an outlaw, carried his election for Middlesex.

The same year, Mr. Wilkes was expelled the House of Commons, and afterwards committed to the King's Bench prison.

1771. The lord mayor of London, and alderman Oliver, committed to the Tower by the House of Commons.

The same year, Mr. Wilkes was released from his imprisonment, elected an alderman, and afterwards lord mayor of London.

1775 Hostilities commenced in the American Colonies.

1778. Hostilities began between England, France, and Spain.

1780. This year will be ever memorable for the dreadful riots it produced in London.

The same year, hostilities were commenced against the Dutch.

The

1782. The independence of America acknowledged by the English House of Commons!

The same year, general Elliot obliged the Spaniards to raise the siege of Gibraltar, by one of the bravest defences that history produces.

1783. Peace concluded between the belligerent powers.

F I N I S.



Shortly will be published,
Price 1s. 6d. each.

1. **A** New Abridgement of the History of the Grecian States, interspersed with the Characters and Exploits of their most celebrated Heroes, Orators, and Philosophers.
2. A New Abridgement of the History of France, comprehending every Thing most curious and interesting in the Annals of that Monarchy.

ca
n-
he
py
o-
he

of
th
e-
rs.
of
olt
aat